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Weizsäcker's tribute to Spain's achievements

Handelsblatt
WIRTSCHAFTS- UND FINANZZEITUNG

Good news does not usually hit the headlines. So Bonn President Richard von Weizsäcker was probably not surprised that his state visit to Spain was given sparse press coverage.

The Spanish population was more preoccupied with Eta terrorism and European Cup soccer than with relations between Bonn and Madrid — which are extremely good.

Von Weizsäcker's main intention was to pay a tribute to the proud country in the southwest of Europe 10 years after its democratisation.

The representative of the most powerful European Community member wanted to show a dynamic partner that he is impressed by its openness and achievements.

And he wanted to demonstrate to fellow Germans that Spain is more than just a sun-blessed Mediterranean country in which people can drink Sangria and spend a nice holiday.

State visits of this kind can at most be expected to illuminate aspects underexposed in bilateral exchanges. Here, von Weizsäcker achieved a great deal. One example was his sight-seeing itinerary. Very few leading Spanish politicians have journeyed so far into the provinces, and hardly a state visitor before him has explored the Roman and Islamic roots of modern-day Spain so intensively as the Bonn President.

This gave the organisers and security officials plenty of headaches, but made a very good impression on the hosts.

Weizsäcker also tried, as he explained in Barcelona, to give a clear signal.

Although there is little cause for complaint in trade ties in view of the record bilateral trade and tourism figures, the subject does have a hotly disputed aspect.

During the visit to the Seat production plant just outside Barcelona, where the head of Volkswagen, Hahn, explained the details of planned investments by the subsidiary company (DM9.4bn up until 1998), the Bonn President was confronted by questions relating to "social dumping."

Although the plans by Volkswagen to completely transfer the production of the VW-Polo to Spain by the mid-1990s at the very latest have been coordinated with the VW works council there are fears among employees in Germany that they may lose their jobs.

Volkswagen, however, intends making sure that the production plant in Wolfsburg still has two legs to stand (one of them being the VW-Golf) once Polo has moved to Spain.

Furthermore, VW plants are to operate as parts suppliers for Seat to a growing extent. This already guarantees 4,000 jobs in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Von Weizsäcker did not comment on the detailed question of the restructuring of the European motor industry.

Yet he did praise the "exemplary" nature of activities by the Volkswagen group in Spain. This was not only an attempt to encourage other German firms to make similar investments.

The message he conveyed throughout his trip through Spain was that the economic and political convergence of Europe is a reality with benefits for all concerned.

Hermann-Josef Knipper
(Handelsblatt, Düsseldorf, 10 April 1989)

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Guests in Madrid. From left, Queen Sophia, King Juan Carlos, President Richard von Weizsäcker and Marianne von Weizsäcker. (Photo: dpa)

SPD chief Vogel takes his briefcase to Washington

Hans-Jochen Vogel attracted a lot of intention during his visit to the United States. The Americans naturally wanted to have a good look at someone who is a possible future Bonn Chancellor.

The level of interest shown must have made Chancellor Helmut Kohl feel as if his era is coming to an end. Vogel met the new higher echelon members of the administration, including President Bush.

The election results in Berlin and Hesse and the poor results for the Bonn coalition in public opinion surveys have not gone unnoticed in the USA.

Vogel can afford to adopt a moderate stance. He does not misuse the American platform for a continuation of election campaigning.

He warned Americans not to overdramatise the increase in votes for the right-wing fringe of the German party-political landscape. Unfortunately, this is just what he did do Germany before his trip, and there was a corresponding response abroad. Vogel explained the to a certain extent understandable motives of such protest voters. He revised the horrific vision that a new Hitler is on his way. He spared his listeners the claim that parties such as the CSU and CDU with their xenophobic tendencies were basically to blame for the successes of right-wing radicals.



SPD leader Hans-Jochen Vogel (left) with President Bush at the White House. (Photo: AP)

One of the yardsticks for assessing the quality of German politicians who travel abroad is whether they try to settle scores with their political opponents back home.

Fortunately, Vogel did not do this. He wants gently to prepare the American public for an SPD in power.

The Greens represent the big question mark. Vogel pointed towards their "pragmatic stance" in Berlin, but avoided any premature reference to the Greens as a natural coalition partner in Bonn.

He felt that it would be wrong to brand the Germans as unreliable partners because of left- or right-wing swings of the party-political pendulum.

General-Anzeiger

The impression he gave in the USA was one of a statesman who deserves to be trusted rather than that of a party politician.

Even on the controversial missile issue, whether they should be modernised or replaced, he gave the assurance that his position is not so far away from the position taken by Chancellor Kohl.

Vogel almost maintained that the course pursued by Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher was fundamentally Social-Democratic.

With the exception of the missile modernisation or replacement problem Vogel emphasised the points of agreement rather than the differences with Washington.

To live in discord with the American superpower has been out of fashion ever since the American government began the extensive dialogue of detente with Mikhail Gorbachov.

Hermann Eich
(General-Anzeiger, Bonn, 5 April 1989)

■ INTERNATIONAL

Uncertainly about how Poles will react to the new era of cooperation

While the negotiators of the "round-table" talks between the Polish government and an opposition team led by Solidarity met to sign protocols in the Palace of the Polish Council of Ministers head of state and party leader General Wojciech Jaruzelski was welcoming a Spanish socialist delegation.

The Iberian peninsula has been the subject of Polish curiosity for some time now.

How have the Spanish managed to effect a transition from a totalitarian system to democracy without bloodshed?

In their wildest dreams many of those in power in Poland today envision the Poland of the year 2000 as a democratic and prosperous community with a strong socialist party in government.

The conclusion of the new ocial contract marks the start of a new era in Poland.

A "socialist parliamentary democracy" is planned for the future; a pluralistiically organised society with, for the time being, a limited infuence of opposition groups in constitutional bodies.

A sign of the zeal with which the vision is being tackled is the decision to prematurely dissolve the Sejm (parliament).

At least eighty per cent of its current members may find themselves outside of parliament in the next legislative period.

The offiicial result of the round-table talks is characterised by a lot of unknown quantities, especially with respect to its economic policy component.



The biggest unknown quantity is the reaction of the Polish population.

Will at least part of it believe that "the power that be" are really serious this time?

Will the Poles be able to establish a loyal relationship to their state following decades of moral deformation?

Will they keep quiet if their standard of living, which has been falling for years, is reduced even further?

As long as uncertainty prevails with regard to these questions the significance of the agreement on 5 April can only be assessed in terms of what has been achieved to get this far.

During the talks some of the round-table negotiators had old scores to settle.

All opposition representatives have come into contact with the police apparatus run by the host of the talks, Interior Minister Kiszczak.

It was Kiszczak who order their arrest after martial law was imposed in Poland on 13 December, 1981.

He is responsible for the numerous harassments, interrogations and arrests to which the criminalised leaders of Solidarity were subjected for many years.

The willingness of such rivals to sit down together at the same table and hammer out an agreement could not be taken for granted right from the start.

And what did Walesa and his comrades-in-arms hope to achieve in talks with the government?

They all stand to lose a reputation which is based on the very fact that they have never bowed to power.

Many still have fears that they may have agreed to a swindle.

In view of this background it takes inner stature to opt for a course of conciliation. This applies to both sides.

The realisation that continuing confrontation is paralysing the country to a growing extent has played an important part.

What is more, last year's strikes allowed a new danger to flare up: the potential of the radicals among the workers.

Ten years ago or so the party would have clamped down rigorously on such phenomena.

Times have changed. The Soviet Union is in such a state of flux and is so involved with its own problems that no Communist leader can be certain of brotherly military assistance if faced by domestic turmoil.

The new motto is: every man for himself.

The decisive factor for the round-table talks in Poland, however, was the instinct for power of the Warsaw party leadership.

Prime Minister Rakowski, who has become the second most powerful politician in Poland within a short space of time, already induced the party in an internal memorandum in 1987 to drop ideological ballast and face up to opposition at home in an open political discussion instead of tracking it down using police methods.

Rakowski warned that the former methods of rule and running the economy had proven hopelessly inferior to western democracies.

At the same time he advocated that a strong government must make it clear that it cannot be played around with.

This fighting spirit is probably much to General Jaruzelski's liking.

It contrasts with the bunker mentality which has developed in Bucharest, Prague and East Berlin.

In these cities heads may be shaken at the adventurism of the Polish Communists.

Yet if the waves of popular fury hit and engulf the head-shakers Poland and Hungary could turn out to be a stronghold of stability in Eastern Europe and the only countries which have chosen the path of evolutionary restructuring of the Soviet system on time.

In Warsaw, however, there is also a "bunker" factor.

Towards the end of the round-table talks is could be clearly identified.

The Communist trade unions led by Politburo member Miodowicz tried to outdo Solidarity by making social demands which initially seemed enticing but would put an end to all economic reforms.

The ability to resist these demands will be just one of the tests coming Poland's way.

Stefan Dietrich

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 7 April ...)

Namibia: joy and hatred in a difficult transition

It comes as no surprise that Namibia's transition from a South African colony to an independent country ruled in all probability in future by the population's black majority is not a smooth one.

The almost 25-year struggle for independence by the black population, first and foremost by the South West Africa People's Organisation (Swapo), has demanded too many sacrifices to permit an immediate change from guerilla warfare to peace.

It was only natural that emotions, ranging between joy and fear, would run high on 1 April, the day on which the South African administrator-general Louis Pienaar had to start sharing pow-

Süddeutsche Zeitung

er in Namibia with Martti Ahtisaari, the special representative of the United Nations.

The 70,000 whites fear the rule of 1.5 million blacks and are afraid that they might lose all their possessions.

The black population for its part is divided into different ethnic groups and by varying interests. Many blacks had come to terms with South African rule and discovered their liking for Swapo at a late stage.

The simultaneous outbreak of joy and hatred is most intense in the region where guerilla warfare is most pronounced: close to the Namibian-Angolan border.

The information on the causes and extent of the armed conflict between previous government forces and Swapo guerillas, in which 150 people have died so far, are inconsistent.

According to Pretoria Swapo attempted a small-scale invasion from Angolan territory and extended the fighting to a large area in the north of Namibia.

Admittedly, such claims may be designed to induce the United Nations to take countermeasures or to enable Pretoria to reserve military initiatives of its own.

The Swapo for its part claims that its members, some of them unarmed, were attacked by the South Africans.

This version may be playing down the true popularity of Sam Nujoma's organisation, not only in the north of Namibia but also in areas in which its supporters have so far operated more secretly, e.g. in Windhoek and in the middle of the country.

It is understandable that the guerillas who were forced by the South African army to retreat to Angola for many years should want cross the border at the moment of their triumph to join forces with their compatriots.

The United Nations peacekeeping force would be powerless in the face of such an invasion.

The still powerful South African army, however, appears to view the conflict with Swapo as a welcome opportunity to advice greater caution in Namibia.

The decisive question is whether the clash between the South Africans and the Swapo was the result of the circumstances of the beginning of a development towards independence or whether it was the result of a planned move.

The way things stand Pretoria could point to the chaos in Namibia to justify long-term military intervention and drag out decolonialisation, particularly if this has a stimulating effect on the blacks in South Africa.

A development which has been concluded elsewhere on the African continent is unlikely to stop at the South African border.

Whereas Pretoria has good reason to slow down the wheels of history the opposite applies to the Swapo.

During the course of the negotiations which led to the international agreements on Namibia its prestige has steadily grown.

More than ever before the Swapo today ranks as the legitimate heir to power in Namibia.

Any attempt to obtain by force something it is likely to achieve anyway sooner or later would only have a detrimental effect on the organisation.

The guerillas would discredit the ideology of liberation if they show their inability to pursue the peaceful path to a change of power in Namibia.

Nujoma's silence, however, is not a good sign.

The two superpowers would appear to provide a certain safeguard for the fact that what happened in Angola, Mozambique and other African countries does not happen in Namibia.

Without their cooperation behind the scenes, enabled by a change of course in Moscow's foreign policy, the Namibia agreement would never have materialised and the Cubans would never have agreed to pull out of Angola. Up until recently the USA and the Soviet Union took sides against each other, exacerbating and prolonged Third World conflicts.

The superpowers now seem to realise that they should not give secondary interests priority over primary ones, which are to be found in the bilateral field.

The United Nations has better means of acting as mediator, even though the two-thirds majority in the General Assembly does not provide a guarantee for the best decisions.

Under the changed circumstances, however, the corresponding United Nations institutions should be able to prevent a recommencement of border warfare and civil war.

One prerequisite is the cooperation of the South Africans.

Pretoria should gradually realise that Namibia could become either a good or a poor example for the settlement of conflicts — including those in South Africa.

Josef Riedmiller

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich ...)

The German Tribune

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■ HOME AFFAIRS

Despite pressure, CSU wants to remain Bavarian-based

Surveys show that half the German population and most CSU voters believe the Bavarian-based Christian Social Union should run candidates throughout the entire nation.

The main reason is the resurgence of right-wing parties (the Republicans and the National Party). Poll respondents feel that the CDU/CSU union which, together with the middle-of-the-road Free Democrats, governs in Bonn, will not survive unless the CSU moves out from its Bavarian stronghold. (The CSU is to the right of the CDU).

Just over 12 years ago, the union agreed on just this in a decision in the Bavarian town of Kreuth that caused a sensation. But after a few months, it was decided not to act on the resolution.

Now, the CSU headquarters and its party chairman, Theo Waigel, have received thousands of letters in favour of the party taking to the hustings all over the country.

Most of them argue that, in the face of the growing popularity of right-wing extremist parties such as the Republicans led by Franz Schönhuber, the ailing conservative union will only have a chance of staying in government in Bonn after the next general election in 1990 if CSU politicians stand as election candidates throughout the nation.

The CSU is flattered by this kind of encouragement, but the feeling is that there would be more disadvantages than advantages in such a change. Waigel believes this, and has widespread support.

The insistent letter-writers are thus told that their desire for an extension of the activities of the CSU is a sign of welcome support for the CSU's policies, but that a realisation of the 1976 Kreuth resolution would have indisputably had detrimental effects.

No less a person than former CSU chairman Franz Josef Strauss, who died last year, soon realised this fact.

The party, therefore, has decided to continue to abide by the course pursued by its deceased chairman by remaining Bavarian.

In a speech to the party committee in Regensburg in February Waigel referred to "problems which have been discussed since 1976 and which have not of course changed a great deal."

A copy of Waigel's speech in Regensburg was enclosed in the party's replies to the letter-writers.

What has definitely changed since 1976 is what was then called the "political landscape."

In 1976 the Federal Republic of Germany has a three-party system which seemed likely to last and which many experts thought could never be changed.

Strauss also felt that the FDP would always maintain its coalition with the SPD and never choose another partner.

He argued that, apart from the conservative union's mirage of an absolute majority, this meant that it would never assume government power in Bonn unless a "fourth party" appeared on the scene.

Strauss suggested that if the CDU and CSU fought the general election independently they might be able to gain a majority of seats in Bundestag, in line with the military motto "unite for the attack."

In the meantime, however, the Federal Republic of Germany has got a fourth federal party, albeit not the CSU but the Greens.

The structure of party politics, whose inflexibility was strongly criticised by the Kreuth "rebels", has long since been in a state of flux.

One of the problems facing the conservative union is the fact that many voters are toying with the idea of sending a fifth or sixth party into parliament.

The CSU's reasons for dropping the ambitious project, on the other hand, have hardly changed.

In terms of the ambitions of its MPs the CSU is only marginally a federal party.

Most CSU politicians preferred and still prefer the intact world of their regional constituencies.

They are horrified at the possibility that the CDU might compete with the CSU for votes in Bavaria, something which would be bound to occur sooner or later if the "spirit of Kreuth" (Friedrich Zimmermann) were to be released from the bottle.

This would mean farewell to the CSU's absolute majority in many areas and farewell to its absolute majority in the state assembly, an absolute majority which the CSU still hopes and believes it can retain in the next state election in one-and-a-half years time.

The CSU is not prepared for a campaign beyond its Bavarian home ground

The right political content is not enough for a party which has to present candidates. This requires a minimum of infrastructure, offices, helpers and money. In view of the resources in all these fields it is clear that the bigger CDU would find it a lot easier to cope with the creation of an new organisational network in Bavaria than its Bavarian sister party in numerous *Länder*.

The CSU would then obviously need representatives and applicants from the regions concerned.

The party's Munich headquarters remains silent here.

There are fears that the CSU might attract politicians who were unsuccessful in the CDU because of their dyed-in-the-wool views.

And what if voters agree with the content of CSU policies and decide to give the CDU the first vote (the vote for the direct constituency) and the CSU the second vote (the decisive party list vote)?

This possibility has also been considered. The CSU leadership believes that the major drawback of this vision is the presupposition of perfect harmony between the CDU and CSU.

This electoral "conspiracy" would only work if the relationship between the sister parties resembled that between blood brothers.

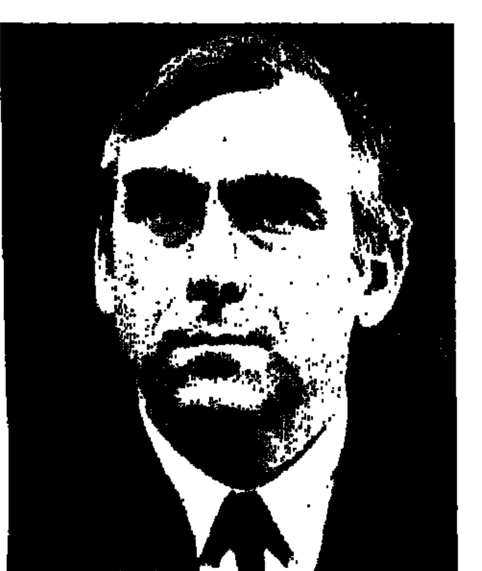
CSU chairman has conceded that such a plan could be discussed if there were complete agreement between the two parties.

He then, however, added that this kind of harmony is improbable.

What seems more likely is an increase in conflict caused by controversial issues and fanned by political opponents. The past has shown how easily the CSU and some members of the CDU clash. How could peace be guaranteed if this rivalry is institutionalised?

In consideration of this question Waigel once said that an extension of the CSU to a nationwide party could only be effected "with soldiers or angels."

The reply Waigel gave to the advocates of the idea, however, was formulated in less impressive words:



Strauss had it right, says CSU boss Theo Waigel. (Photo: Josef Spiegl)

"After weighing up all the circumstances the losses caused by competition would be greater than the gains of a potential separation."

A further factor worth considering is that, no matter how amicably such a split comes about, the parties would change their character if they try to gain the support of the same voters.

The CSU, today a right-wing party with a number of leftist features, would presumably be forced into the role of an extreme right-wing party, whereas the CDU would pursue the course mapped out by its general manager Heiner Geissler, whom many party colleagues regard as a "left-winger."

Furthermore, no-one could promise CSU supporters that the CDU would in fact form a coalition with the CSU on the day or join forces with the SPD instead.

In the philological spirit of the deceased "father" of the CSU, Franz Josef Strauss, Waigel warns: *Respice finem.*

Roswin Finkenzeller

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 5 April 1989)

Success brings SPD new set of problems

The greater the SPD election successes, the greater its problems. The greater the popularity of its leading politicians, the more difficult its situation.

It sounds contradictory, but the more likely the possibility of a Social Democrat government in Bonn, the more the party comes into the harsh light of scrutiny and out of the shadows where it sat as a mere critic of government policy.

Everything was so well planned: a coalition with the FDP in Hamburg, one with the Greens in Frankfurt, and a grand coalition with the CDU in Berlin.

This would have demonstrated the SPD's ability to coalesce with all three parties and turned the "Red-Green" (SPD-Greens) spectre into no more than a harmless residual risk.

Things didn't turn out that way following the Berlin elections and the spectre has returned.

One of the main reasons for the defeat of the SPD chancellor candidate in the last general election at the beginning of 1987, Johannes Rau, was the paralysing discussion about the unattainable absolute majority and possible coalitions.

At that time, a Red-Green coalition was the only conceivable possibility.

This was depicted by political rivals as a scenario of horror and even made many potential SPD voters change their minds.

One of the first measures taken by SPD leader Hans-Jochen Vogel, therefore, was to prevent this coalition discussion.

His efforts were successful, up until the elections results in Berlin and Frankfurt and the leaning of part of his party to Red-Green cooperation again uncovered realities.

As the general election campaign draws near many people are now wondering what the SPD in fact wants.

Neither programmes which do not rule out cooperation with any party — with the exception of the Republicans, nor Vogel's Sisyphean efforts can stop a discussion about possible alliances.

The political wings of the SPD no longer fit into the old right-wing/left-wing scheme.

The spectrum has become more complex and the discussions generally cut through these former fronts, which are only useful for counting party conference battalions. This was demonstrated by the votes in the Party Programme Commission on economic policy.

The traditional leftwinger Peter von Oertzen joined forces with right-wingers from the trade union movement to fight the party's more liberal members.

The dispute over Oskar Lafontaine is not just a discussion about an enigmatic leader personality, but a discussion about the future path to be taken by the party.

The powerful trade union faction in the SPD has a deep-rooted dislike of any Red-Green government coalition in Bonn.

The national congress of the Jusos, the SPD's youth organisation, on the other hand, has a deep-rooted dislike of any kind of Lafontaine-style mobility.

This aversion is almost reminiscent of the early years of the former anti-Juso campaigner Hans-Jochen Vogel and shows little consideration for the strategic intentions of the party leadership.

This struggle reflects part of social reality. Sometimes it looks as if the Bonn government is doing its utmost to make voters turn to opposition parties.

In the past a change of government in Bonn generally resulted from a desire to oust the government in power rather than from the brilliance of the political opposition.

The voters have become increasingly pensive. The supporters of a Red-Green constellation would be scared off by an exaggerated consideration of trade union interests and of the *raison d'état* — an vice-versa.

Vogel has invested tremendous personal effort during recent months to cover up these conflicts.

Within the party he pursues a course of integration which sometimes makes the contours of political views very vague.

Outside of the party he promotes the image of a party which is again mature enough to assume government responsibility in Bonn.

Lafontaine tries (in many cases in rebellious rivalry) to spread productive restlessness and break up encrustations.

Continued on page 6

Just before East Berlin's party leader, Erich Honecker, visited the Federal Republic of Germany in 1987, representatives of the Social Democrats in the west met members of the East German party in an effort to find some sort of common ground. There was criticism from within the SPD itself at the move. Now, a year and a half later, some Social Democrats involved in the talks admit that the criticism had been justified. There is disappointment because assurances given by the East Germans have been ignored. Jörg Bischoff reports for the *Stuttgarter Zeitung*.

■ GERMANY

Regret over 'broken promises' after cross-border talks

When the two sides met in 1987, the SPD and the SED, they produced a joint paper outlining directions they hoped the dialogue might take them. The paper said, for example, that "both sides must view each other as being capable of (maintaining) peace".

The paper, called The Dispute of Ideologies and Common Security, said: "Open discussion on the competition between the systems, their successes and failures, advantages and disadvantages, must be possible within each system."

As the paper was being jointly published (by the SPD's *Grundwertekommission* with its chairman Erhard Eppler and the Academy of Social Sciences of the Central Committee of the GDR's Socialist Unity Party — SED — in August 1987) Eppler was even allowed to take part in an East German television discussion.

Regardless of much criticism from within the party against "cooperation with Communists" the SPD presidium described the paper as an "important and future-orientated contribution to an extensive peace policy."

In the meantime there is clear disillusionment among Social Democrats. At the end of March the *Grundwertekommission* published its first report on its experience during the one-and-a-half years since its inception.

Although the report does not refer to resignation there is reference to disappointment:

"If we take stock of the practical situation for which our partner is accountable we confirm encouraging developments, but also developments which disappoint us."

The SPD points out that in scientific journals and official announcements by the SED the West is "often dealt with without hostility", elements of division are pushed into the background, and the search for unity is discernible.

The report then adds, however, that "this contrasts with the restriction of social dialogue in the GDR and the deterioration of the circumstances of this dialogue, a fact which we already found difficult to understand just a few months after publication (of the report)."

This is followed by bitter words recalling the arrests in the East Berlin Zion Church in October 1987, the action taken by GDR security policy against demonstrators during the Rosa Luxemburg demonstration in January 1988, and, although no more than indirectly, the shots fired at GDR refugees in Berlin.

There is critical reference to the exchange of journals agreed on but never carried out by the SED. On the contrary, the SPD recalls the ban imposed by the GDR on the Soviet magazine *Sputnik*.

Despite assurances to the contrary the SPD/SED paper itself is no longer available between Rostock and the Erzgebirge.

In view of this development the report claims that the SED has not translated its assurances into practice: open discussion on the competition between the systems, a comprehensive basis of information for citizens in East and West, and "dialogue between all social organisations, institutions, social forces and individuals."

In particular the SPD's reference to the worsening of the situation only a few weeks after the paper was adopted sounds like an admission that for the SED the joint initiative served more of a political-cum-practical purpose than an ideological one.

The paper was published just a few days before Erich Honecker's visit to Bonn, and the approval of the SED Politburo on 22 June, 1987, was probably only possible because this visit had to be arranged as well.

At that time Eppler disputed such a link.

He pointed out that the two respective eight-member commissions had already begun negotiations in 1984, long before the intra-German thaw in the spring of 1987 as well as before Soviet general secretary Mikhail Gorbachov assumed office.

In the meantime, however, the SPD's *Grundwertekommission* has to admit that some of the objections raised by party colleagues at the time were not unjustified.

The right-wing party members in the *Seeheimer Kreis* group, such as Hans-Jürgen Wischnewski or Annemarie Renger, fundamentally warned against the "cardinal error" of intellectual cooperation with Communists in view of the painful experiences of Social Democrats in the GDR.

They objected to the basic equation of a party of social democracy with the claim to power of a socialist dictatorship.

SPD critics such as the Berlin professor Gesine Schwan, who argued more fundamentally and strongly criticised Eppler's redefinition of the SPD's peace concept, see their criticism confirmed by the ... development.

Gesine Schwan was particularly criti... of the controversial passage in the joint pa... per according to which the two systems East and West should view each other "capable of peace."

As peace in the SPD/SED paper is ... fined as a "basic prerequisite for the ... sation of our respective values and prin... ples" Eppler was accused of having ab... doned the former social concept of the SPD's and narrowed the definition ... ternal peace.

According to the paper peace ... ists "if the Social Democratic basic ... of freedom, justice and solidarity" ... realised, if East German border ... still shoot to kill at the border, if ... opposition is oppressed or if ... rules with a Socialists' Act.

In the words of Gesine Schwan:

"The priority of the unity of all demo... rats in maintaining and developing pe... and freedom has been replaced by ... fundamental unity of Social Democ... and Communists in ensuring survival."

The tougher line taken by the SED ... lowing Honecker's visit to the Federal Re... public of Germany, a line which contrasts markedly with the liberalisation in the So... viet Union and in other Communist sta... appears to have made the SPD commi... sion think back to its classic concep... peace.

Although the report still emphasi... "peaceful competition" between the ... tems" the authors now remind the ... more forcefully than two years ago of ... jointly formulated passages according ... which a "free dialogue of people within ... systems" was postulated.

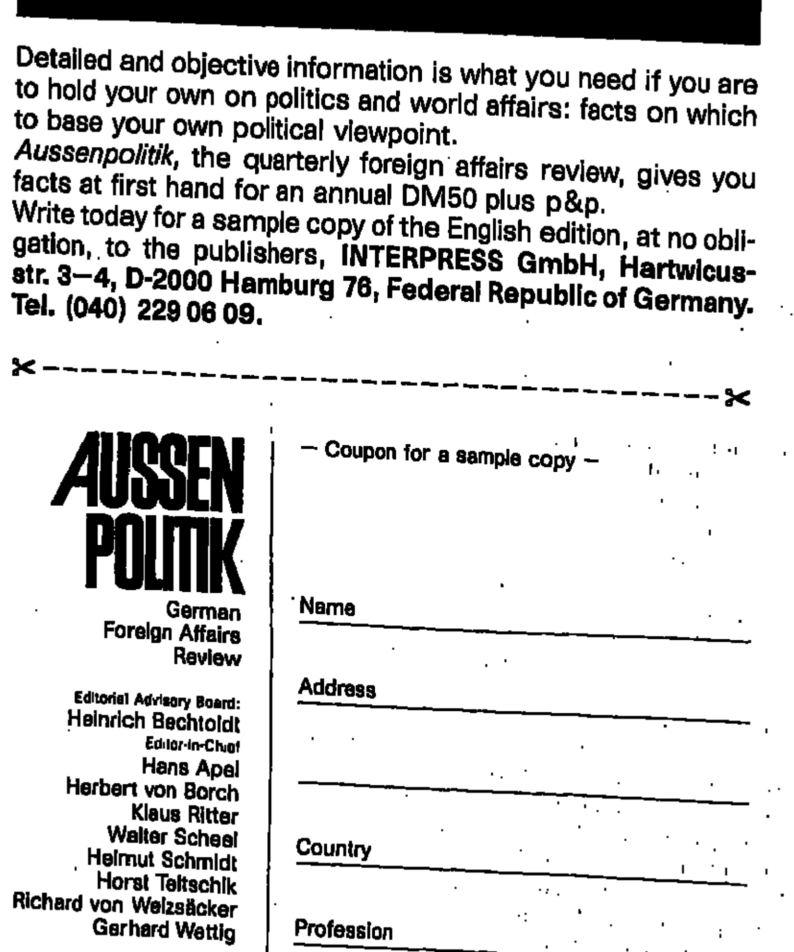
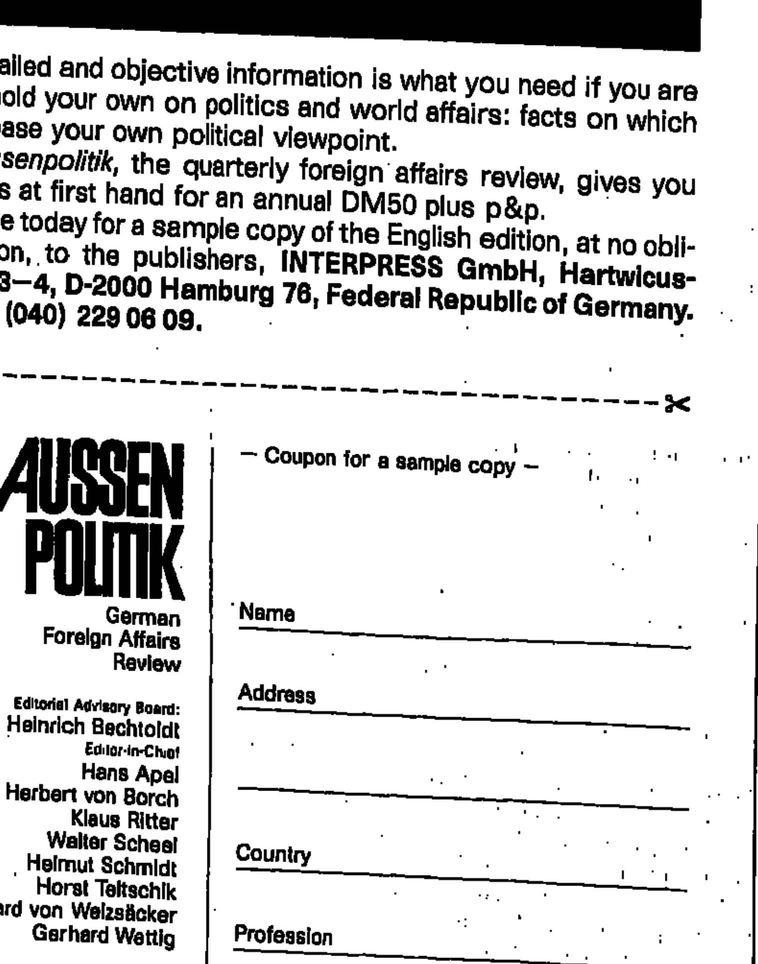
This criticism of the SED is now ... plemented by a formulation which wa... in the joint paper.

According to Eppler's letter of ... tion the SPD and the SED agree that people in East and West must also be a... to "draw their conclusions for the way ... which they wish to live in future" on the basis of a free assessment of their own ... spective systems. Despite the bitter expe... ences with the intra-German party-poli... cal dialogue Erhard Eppler is still con... vinced that "it's early days yet."

He hopes that the forces of moderati... in the SED will pick up the paper ag... "one day", particularly since the electio... in the Soviet Union have again made ... clear that the conservative Commun... hardly stand a chance of being successf...

Jörg Bischo...

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 31 March ...)

Soldiers from both sides meet at Hamburg academy

Soldiers from both Germanies met in March at the Hamburg Institute of Peace Research and Security Policy.

This was not the first time soldiers of the Bundeswehr and soldiers of the National People's Army (NVA) have met on West German soil.

For more than two years there has been a regular to-and-fro of military officials, during which NVA officers repeatedly attended Academy conferences.

The fact that this time four officers (West) in uniform and four officers (East) in subdued lounge suits smiled into the camera together with the director of the Hamburg institute, Egon Bahr, has, to begin with, primarily symbolic value.

Apart from this symbolic value, however, what is the point of such gatherings?

Since the Stockholm agreement on confidence-building measures at the latest it is public knowledge that a new course of openness is also, and especially, being pursued in the military field "on the ... side." Manoeuvre observers from the re... spective other side are now an everyday institution both in the GDR and in the Federal Republic.

Nevertheless, discussions between the soldiers of the two armies or even, as sug... gested by state secretary Wimmer, an ex... change of soldiers can be useful, since ... and if — they help eliminate previously fostered stereotyped images of the enemy.

The shoot-to-kill order to East German border guards and the instilling of ... are major stumbling-blocks along the ... to normal relations.

Members of the West German milit... know very little about their East German neighbours, since regular soldiers and sol... diers who sign up for specified periods (*Zeitsoldaten*) are not allowed to travel ... the GDR. In terms of security policy ... meetings are highly significant.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 30 March 19...)

■ PERSPECTIVE

Confusion at the crossroads: 40 years on, Nato needs to redefine role

The North Atlantic Treaty was signed in Washington on 4 April 1949. The nations that signed, from Europe and the American continent, had acted quickly as tension built up in war-torn Europe: the Communists had grabbed power in Czechoslovakia, the Berlin Blockade had been applied in an attempt to isolate the former capital of the German Reich, and there was civil war in Greece. The spectre of the Soviet Union was looming. The agreement signed in Washington included no automatic obligation by member states to help any other member state which was under attack. But, says Dieter Füser in this article for the *Mannheimer Morgen*, a more important foundation stone was laid: the Americans had committed themselves definitively to Europe politically, economically and militarily. The isolationist era was a thing of the past. Füser looks at the issues and attitudes in those post-war days and at the factors which governed the early Nato strategy; how this changed when Russia got the bomb; and how changing European attitudes to both Eastern Europe and Nato have created a dilemma which appears to have no solution: 80 per cent of people in the Federal Republic of Germany do not feel threatened by the Soviet Union.

Questions about Bonn's role have been asked ever since it joined Nato in 1955. Because of the Federal Republic's military power and its geographical position, Germany has now become, with the United States, one of the two spearheads of the alliance.

But as a potential battlefield, Germany has at the same time an interest in coming to terms with the countries to its east — a dilemma which cannot be solved.

This basic position, from the military point of view, has become more complicated because fears of a threat from the east have declined at the same time as the attractiveness of Nato.

Current opinion polls say that only 19 per cent of West Germans feel threatened militarily by the Soviet Union and 80 per cent do not feel threatened; 63 per cent are convinced that the Russians want disarmament.

In view of this attitude, it is becoming more and more difficult in the West to persuade people that a high level of military preparedness is necessary.

Offer of the week

One intended way of bringing the message home is the Nato conference announced for the summer to fashion an overall concept. For sure there has been some hesitation because of the change in the White House, but the statement by Washington administration spokesman Fitzwater that the matter should not be an affair of reacting to the "offer of the week" emanating from Moscow, demonstrates the uncertainty in the West.

The greatest unknown factor in the entire defence and security issue is the question of whether the Soviet party chief, Mikhail Gorbachov (who represents the biggest challenge to Nato since its foundation, according to SPD member of Parliament and East Bloc specialist Egon Bahr) can push through his changes in Moscow. Former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt recently warned that Gorbachov could fall. If this did happen, said Schmidt, the West would have to expect a return to an "aggressive and expansionist strategy" by the Russians.

The Soviet Union under Gorbachov has in the past two years, to the great surprise of the West, taken many steps which the Atlantic Alliance had previously, in vain, been demanding. The old demand for disarmament agreements containing enforceable verification procedures were first realised in the INF deal on removing medium-range missiles.

In December, Gorbachov announced to the general assembly of the United Nations that the Red Army was to be cut by half a million men. In addition, 10,000 tanks, 8,500 artillery systems and 800 aircraft would be pulled out of Eastern Europe. Then in January, Moscow for the first time ever issued a comparison of force levels in East and West.

The Russians' count was certainly miles removed from the West's, and both are different from that of the independent Institute for Strategic Studies in London, but at least it is a start.

Nato representatives have welcomed these Moscow announcements as "a step in the right direction." That was Chancellor Helmut Kohl's feeling after Gorbachov's speech before the general assembly.

But that is not enough at this stage if Nato wants to avoid the accusation that it is, on questions of disarmament, leaving the field wide open to the Soviet Union.

One of the central questions inside the organisation was Nato strategy. The Americans were in favour of a policy of "massive retaliation": they wanted deterrence to be set at the maximum level that could be afforded.

The idea was that a war between East and West would be ruled out from the beginning because of the threat of a massive nuclear retaliatory strike.

In the event of attack, conventional forces — the shield — would first be engaged only in restricted local defence. If that turned out not to be enough, then the strategic nuclear potential of the United States — the sword — would decide the battle.

A new strategic concept was needed the moment Moscow itself got into the position where it could directly threaten America with nuclear weapons.

That led to the idea of the "flexible reaction" and, in December 1967, this was accepted by Nato.

The concept envisaged three different types of reaction. The White Book of the Bonn Defence Ministry published in 1985 describes them: "Direct defence should prevent the aggressor from reaching his destination at the level of military conflict that the aggressor himself has chosen. That can include the use of nuclear weapons.

"This premeditated escalation should ward off attack in that it is intended to force the attacker to a political decision to end his war because the chances of success and the risks would be unfavourable to him.

"*The general nuclear reaction is di*rected above all against the strategic potential of the attacker and means the deployment of the alliance's strategic nuclear weapons."

The same month, the then Belgian Foreign Minister, Pierre Harmel, issued his study into security, which had been commissioned by Nato: the Harmel Report. This direction-pointing study described the main functions of the alliance.

The alliance was to build up adequate military strength and, at the same time, try to make progress in the development of long-term relationships with the aim of using these to solving fundamental political questions. "Military security and politics of detente were not contradictions; they complemented each other."

There was bound to be criticism of the strategy, a strategy which still applies today. Almost all objections claimed dealt that Nato had neglected to built up an adequate armoury of conventional weapons in order to be able to head off a rapid escalation into nuclear hostilities. The factors that prevents an increase in conventional weapons are shortage of cash in national budgets and public protests.

The talks in Vienna offer an alternative in the form of the plan put forward by the former Supreme Commander in Chief of Nato, General Bernard Rogers. He suggested that the newest technologies available in the West should be used so that Nato could locate and destroy the rear echelons of the Warsaw Pact forces. Here consideration would be given to a long-range conventional weapon such as a target-seeking cruise missile.

Critics of Nato's strategy are sticking to their guns. Other ideas have been put foward as to how Western Europe could best defend itself. One is the "social de fence" which dispenses with military defence entirely and uses instead civil resistance after occupation by the invading force. A radical departure from the Nato doctrine is also seen in the views of social scientist Horst Afheldt — a form of defence together with a nuclear deterrent.

Afheldt, a worker at the Max Planck Institute at Starnberg, suggests that if there were no big military alliances, there would be no worthwhile targets for an invader's nuclear weapons. Instead, small units should be deployed in a network across the entire country. These units, using the most modern technologies, would stave off the attacking forces.

Battle tanks, he says, should not be fought with battle tanks but with anti-tank weapons.

The chances of this plan being realised in the foreseeable future are zero. Whatever ideas are put forward, the words of philosopher and physicist Carl- Friedrich von Weizsäcker remain valid: "Anyone who claims to know for sure how catastrophe can be averted is only showing his or her implausibility."

The most controversial topic at the moment in Nato is the planned modernisation of short-range missiles. Although Chancellor Kohl opposes the total scrapping of all these weapons (the "treble-zero solution"), at the same time he does not want to make a decision on updating the Lance missile before 1991/92. Washington and London see things very differently. They want a de- cision one way or the other taken this year.

Perhaps the shortage of money in both east and West will make it possible to disarm in a way that gives the word back some of its meaning. The constant appeal to national governments at last to do more for defence have an obsolete ring to them.

It remains to be hoped that the remark of Albert Einstein does not come true: "The unleashed power of the atom has changed everything except our thinking. That's why we are drifting towards a catastrophe of unparalleled dimensions."

Dieter Füser

(Mannheimer Morgen, 4 April 1989)

Mannheimer MORGEN

NATO

USA

Warsaw Pact

NORTH ATLANTIC

Nato's southern operational limit

Member states: Belgium, Denmark, Germany, France (not in military organisation), Greece, Britain, Iceland, Italy, Canada, Luxembourg, Holland, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, USA

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■ BUSINESS

It's not quite chaos in mechanical engineering

DEUTSCHES ALLGEMEINES SONNTAGSBLATT

There is no problem on the production line or in the office which cannot be solved by the proper deployment of computer technology.

There would be hardly a problem in a factory where only machines and robots work, getting their instructions from a central computers, which could even call over the forwarding agency as soon as they had automatically dealt with quality control.

There is no place for the human being in the factory of the future.

In the first phase of automation the euphoria was of this order. In the second it was obvious that there were still the same old problems.

At the trade fair "Systems" in Munich last September (the fair takes place every two years) a consultant interpreted the magic abbreviations CIM as "Chaos in Mechanical Engineering) and even less frustrated observers wanted Computer Integrated Manufacture (CIM) as an idea to be applied at best in the distant future.

As so often, the truth lies somewhere in the middle. The euphoria has rightly vanished, but there is no reason to bid the CIM idea farewell for ever.

For a long time Computer Integrated Manufacture has not been a matter just for theoretical discussion, despite opposition to it.

Many companies have been converted to elements of this idea. Most have improved quantity and quality of production through it.

These elements allow companies to convert to new technology faster and to fulfill prevailing customer wishes more flexibly.

The shining examples are car manufacturers, who by applying CIM only produce single-units on the production line, or computer producers, where there are often few people to be seen in their production departments.

On the other hand experiences over the past few years have knocked some of the utopian ideas CIM engineers had on the head and brought them down to earth.

There have been three changes because of this. Firstly, the aim was to organise a factory to be as homogeneous and standard as possible, but the intention now is for a more flexible interconnection of partly autonomous and partly automated production systems.

Secondly, the role of the individual appears in quite a different light in the highly-automated factory of the future.

Thirdly, the vision of a factory devoid of people, the hope of some, the nighmare of others, seems to have lost to a large extent its basic appeal.

The "inventors" of CIM at General Motors in the US have had to find the money to gain this experience, and that is only fair.

Under pressure from Japanese competition General Motors began to try out plans for general computer-control of automation at the end of the 1970s — long before CIM became a common expression.

The management wanted to re-equip existing factories with advanced automation at a cost of $40bn, and establish three others in which machines were all on their own.

The goal was a factory almost devoid of people, a factory in which robots, controlled and supervised by a central production control centre, would carry out all the work.

Although General Motors did in fact spend many billions, these facilities never achieved the performance hoped of them. The output of those that actually did go into operation was way below that of traditional installations.

In some factories General Motors dismantled fully-automated robot production lines two years ago and replaced them with conveyor belts togther with work gangs to be able to maintain production.

There were a mass of reasons for this failure. They begin with the enormous difficulties of getting computers and control plant from various manufacturers to work together, and end with the insurmountable hurdle of reorganising radically the sequence of operations which the new technology demands.

Naturally car manufacturers in Detroit were not the only ones who have paid dearly for experience with CIM.

The result of this costly learning process is that now the possibilities of CIM are assessed in a more sober manner.

But the goal remains the same: to attune work sequences perfectly to one another, to save on material and energy resources and to use capital and labour to the best advantage for the company's purposes.

The intention of CIM is still not limited to automating individual production sectors and organising a company more rationally.

CIM is a total concept, aimed at meshing together at the most efficient level all work processes from administration and production planning, to design and production, to production timing and quality control.

But the ideas about what paths achieve this best have changed.

Experience has shown that the greatest possible coordination is not synonymous with forcing all sequences into a rigid scheme, and where possible controlling everything from a central computer.

Fully automated production in factories devoid of people will remain an exception — in factories where it is too monotonous, too hot, too tricky, too harmful for people.

Anything beyond these fctories is often too expensive. One example: an automatisation rate of between 35 and 70 per cent is being contemplated in general goods production in the Federal Republic. Where the optimum lies varies considerably, depending on the circumstances of the individual factory.

Every percentage point over this optimum costs a lot more than it brings in and influences the operations of the plant as a whole. Obviously limitations are appropriate here. Many developers follow the objective of so lying out the system that one of three shifts can operate unmanned.

Such "ghost shifts" extend the machines' operating time and increase markedly profitability without being halted by infringing work and wage agreements.

In the main companies cling to every possible close link-up to automated processes because of this.

The idea of a chain or network of flexible production systems has more often than not replaced the vision of a unified system. Here it is a question of linking together highly, but not fully, automated complexes according to their tasks.

The new "in" expression is "production segmentation." The idea has been bandied about that advanced Taylorisation (division of labour into the smallest invidual operations) does not increase productivity in all cases.

This system requires complex machinery and control equipment, which is expensive and liable to breakdown. There are also difficulties when it is necessary to switch to another product.

People working in this system are under considerable stress and it is harmful to job motivation.

This is just what "production segmentation" tries to avoid. It aims at bringing together separated work processes into new units through more easily comprehensible and less stressful criteria, better tailored to the abilities and requirements of people.

These ideas are not against automation, but they are not linked to intensified automation and centralised control.

Not every manoeuvre needs to be laid down for thinking people. The person works independently and the job gains in significance for him.

The expression "production island," avoided like the plague by every good CIM theoretician until now, has suddenly taken on new overtones. People again count for something.

Since there has been a change of ideas there has been a noticeable falling away in the use of robots in the industrialised countries — last year not many more than 2,000 robots were newly installed in industry in the Federal Republic.

The ideas of intensified centralisation have lost a lot of their appeal, and the role of the worker in the factory of the future has been upgraded.

Nevertheless the idea persists: The more complex technology there is at the workplace, the fewer people are needed to produce the same quantity of products of the same quality.

But people must be more in evidence than ever before. Not just in the sense of being there in the flesh, but with their qualifications, with their motivation, with their ability and readiness, quickly, purposefully and effectively to mesh into demanding work sequences.

No CIM developer could seriously imagine today doing without them in the factory of the future. *Michael Charlier*

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, Hamburg, 31 March 1989)

Continued from page 3

Vogel's trips to Washington and Moscow are intended to show the world that the SPD is back on the map.

Vogel does not set out to disseminate Brandt-style visions or calculated provocation à la Lafontaine. His messages are reliability and industriousness.

A big question is who the party's chancellor candidate will be. If the Kohl government does not last the full term, Vogel would be the undisputed candidate. But to enter the fray yet again as leading candidate would be difficult.

Vogel has identified too much with his role of the carrier of both the party and its Bundestag parliamentary group. His decision will depend on the success or failure of Lafontaine to find new avenues rather than his actual prospects of success in the general election. *Peter Philipps*

(Die Welt, Bonn, 5 April 1989)

Investment in steel is on increase again

The steel industry is in a boom following years in the doldrums. Production was up 13 per cent last year and the run-down on workers was halted — at least in the meantime.

Investment is up, according to the steel industry association report. The big four producers in the Ruhr, Hoesch, Krupp, Mannesmann and Thyssen, had told Chancellor Kohl they would invest DM2bn a year. They spent more than did that last year and will top the performance this year.

There were several optimistic points in the report, which reviewed developments a year after a Bonn conference on the Ruhr when it was decided to mount a recovery programme running into billions of marks for both the coal and steel industries.

The report is also good news for steelworkers. After 13 years of crisis the industry is flourishing again. Last year crude steel production increased 13 per cent to 41 million tons, and so far this year there has been an increase of six per cent.

Makers halted the rundown in the 180,000-strong labour force in 1988. But there are still 20,000 jobs (15,000 in the Ruhr) in line to be chopped.

It was intended to cut them at the end of 1989, but in view of the continuing worldwide steel boom, the industry is understandably saying nothing.

Probably the industry thinks the scheme to mitigate hardship due to partial or complete plant closure, which has been extended until the end of 1990, will be prolonged in future if needed.

The steel companies gave the go-ahead to the the steel association to produce new facts and figures about the industry's investment policy concentrating on new steel technology. Since the steel crisis began 22.5 million square metres of plant real estate have been sold.

The industry has been active in vocational training. The proportion of apprentices in the labour force has increased from 5.3 per cent in 19[illegible] to 6.9 per cent, way above the national average.

To this can be added interest-subsidised loan from the European Coal and Steel Community levy, to which the steel industry has contributed DM600m since 1980. With the loans 50,000 new jobs will be created in North Rhine-Westphalia.

The association says these were contributions to stability in the region.

The steel industry has provided DM7.5bn since 1975 for plans to mitigate undue hardship when plants closed.

Since 1980 the industry has paid out DM1.7bn in additional costs for domestic coal whose price has been higher than the price on world markets, equivalent to the total of state subsidies to the steel industry, which have to be paid.

The steel industry is much concerned that the Bonn government gave its approval at the end of last year to a new subsidy for the Italian steel industry of DM10bn. Mention of it as a "devastating issue" was not just a whimsical side-swipe in the industry's report.

(Die Welt, Bonn, 30 March 1989)

■ ECONOMIC THEORY

A cosmopolitan who re-set the boundaries

One of the most influential economists in Germany, Professor Herbert Giersch, is retiring as president of Institut für Weltwirtschaft in Kiel. To mark the occasion, Hans D. Barbier wrote this article for the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*. Barbier has been awarded this year's Ludwig Erhard Prize for Economic Publicity. Giersch, who delivered the formal address when Barbier received the prize, is himself a former winner of the Prize, in 1983.



Change-round at Kiel Institute: left, Giersch the innovator; and Siebert the environmentalist. (Photos: dpa)

An economist who has developed a reputation of enormous significance, who has influenced an entire era with his innovative and pioneering methods, is retiring: Herbert Giersch has been president of the World Economics Institute in the Schleswig-Holstein city of Kiel since 1969.

However, this does not mean that an era has come to an end. Professor Giersch will continue to write and to discourse and to dispense advice so that the message of this most cosmopolitan of economists will continue to be promulgated and disseminated through his pupils.

To say that his advice is still a commodity that remains sought after does by no means fall into the category of those well-intentioned platitudes which in this day and age appear to be an indisposable adjunct in order to complete any occasion which marks the parting of the ways; for Giersch cannot be said to have the slightest cause to turn any prepossession of mind favourably towards a need to be grateful for the fact that people do listen to what he has to say.

Classification of that elite group of people belonging to the first rate can be juggled around any yardstick and criterion that come to hand; regardless of which is decided upon, of whatever mode of appraisement, Giersch would inevitably be included.

He has achieved something that very few pedagogues or researchers manage to achieve: harnessing a masterly comprehension of his field, he has been able to perform a transmogrification of his discipline into a substantial vantage point for observing its totality in a manner which an inordinate number of manifestations which had hitherto been grounded not on foundations of solid substance but upon a paucity of basic assumptions and hypotheses are lent clarity.

In the march of time over 40 years, a social philosopher has emerged from the economist, and furthermore one who, in this age of jargon, has no ground for refraining from discourse with younger generations of economists.

Giersch stands in the tradition of Karl Popper and Friedrich August von Hayek, but he has not merely seen fit to follow in their footsteps. The ideas central to their line of work, their caveat against placing an overabundance of moment upon integral economic models, their appeal for the open society, their prescient, not to say perspicacious, perception of juridical criteria and economic constellations as evolutionary transmutations towards the ultimate ethical basis for civilisation, have not been simply assumed and further advanced by Gierisch, but given extensive modifications in order that they form a discussion pivotal point apposite to the modern day.

The great economic issues of the day — Europe 1992, the future of world trade, the difficulties of the Third World — the way they are approached in Giersch's order of things is, in an extensive and deduced veracity barely if at all contiguous to the appreciated cogency of this perceived extension, through the free and unencumbered exchange of goods and ideas and a peaceable competition under the aegis of an ordered and legal system of rectitude.

In an article he wrote for this newspaper last month, he saw the prevailing current situation as a long-term development of man from the primordium of minute economic assemblages up to the global mutualisation of conceptions which, as vehicles for the development potential of entire national economies, have superseded capital and extant means of production.

Herbert Giersch was born in 1921 in Reichenbach, in Silesia (present-day Poland). He studied economics at the Universities of Breslau and Kiel and graduated at the University of Münster. After a time studying at the London School of Economics, he became a lecturer in Münster in 1950.

He spent some years working at the Organisation for European Economic Cooperation (today's OECD) in Paris and, in 1955 accepted a professorship at the University of the Saar. In 1969 he was appointed president of the World Economics Institute in Kiel (IW, Institut für Weltwirtschaft).

He disliked *Modellschreinerei*, (making economic models together like a carpenter might). His work devolved to the peripheral regions of research but at no stage has it parted company with practical issues: that applied for his illumination of Thünen's *Standorttheorie* just as much as to his methodical and broad-based work, *Grundlagen der Wirtschaftspolitik*.

From these standpoints, he explained his theses about the *Bringschuld des Ökonomen* in which he saw economists cast into the role of custodians of a genus of fount for wherewithal, the contents of which remained available for politicians to draw on at will.

The consummate nature, both in extent and of course viewed from a vantage where the quintessential essentialness of quality manifests itself, of his achievements is evident and it must be observed that it was not only his period

Continued on page 8

New man takes over in top academic post

Horst Siebert, a professor from Constance, is the new man in the most renowned position in German universities: president of the Kiel World Economics Institute (IW).

He succeeds Herbert Giersch, whose trail-blazing approach established new boundaries and led him to become something of an institution himself.

The 75-year tradition of the Institute has always been strongly influenced by the personality of the president. Giersch held the position for more than 20 years. The founding president, Bernhard Harms, set the tone from 1914 to 1933.

The 51-year-old Siebert is also ready for a long run. For his own programme, he recalls the tradition of the institute and quotes a sentence from the founder that "the entirety of manifestation of life in the world's economy should be pursued" at the institute.

Specialty

Siebert turned at an early stage to environmental economics as his specialist theme. In addition, he published works on international economic theory and the international division of labour.

In 1969, when Giersch became president at Kiel, Siebert, then 31, became a professor at Mannheim University. In 1984 he went to the chair of international economic relations at Constance. He made many trips overseas as visiting professor and for purposes of research.

Siebert defines his future task at Kiel above all as scientific and not so much as an "influential oracle" for the practical exponents of economics in politics.

The institute has accumulated a lot of public attention through its economic prognoses and reports on structural themes. But this, says Siebert, is not its main function. All reports are formulated along strict scientific lines, whereas politics tended to put a lesser emphasis on the economic facts.

Siebert's first even in the (northern) summer semester, a seminar dealing with the single European market, has already attracted about 40 participants.

On the question if he would follow in the footsteps of his enterprising predecessor, he answered laconically: "Every man has his own style." *Karina Monnn/dpa*

(Mannheimer Morgen, 29 March 1989)

■ THE DEBT CRISIS

IMF meeting looks for elusive solution

Eleven countries have not paid off any of their International Monetary Fund (IMF) loans for more than six months. What to do about these debts was one of the main topics on the agenda of the spring meeting of the IMF and the World Bank in Washington this month. But the topic with the highest profile was the Brady proposal to cut Third World debt. American Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady wants banks to write-off some of the debt and the IMF to guarantee the rest. The reports on this page appeared in *Der Tagesspiegel*, the West Berlin daily, and *Stuttgarter Zeitung*.

The developing world's indebtedness has reached astronomical proportions. Pessimists believe it is $1,600bn, and even official figures hover around the $1,300bn level.

But whatever the real amount, figures of this order are beyond the ordinary person's comprehension.

What these high debts mean for individual countries and for the people involved, can best be understood by people in Europe who have taken a trip to the cultural regions of Latin America and who have had directed contact with the people concerned, or who planned to go to Latin America but have then held back because of the sad situation there.

Dry press reports about the situation read here only have a fleeting effect, if any effect at all, but what happens there is bitter and brutal.

New York newspaper headlines have already appeared along the lines "red figures become blood-red figures," and they are accurate.

But what is happening in "America's backyard" calls for something more than comments in the daily press arousing sympathy.

After all economic considerations, which are here involved and must be involved, it should not be forgotten that we are dealing with people and the question of human life.

If Peru is on the verge of civil war, and if bloody street-fighting takes place in Venezuela — all these are the consequences of political powerlessness, economic bankruptcy and indescribable social misery.

The debtor countries are in a vicious circle from which they have not been able to break out so far.

Where at the beginning there was an unfortunate constellation of supply and demand for international capital, there is now a disproportion between the debts and the abilities of the economies of the debtor countries to cover these.

For instance more than a half of the total output in the countries of Latin America corresponds to the debts of these states.

This is why poverty is growing continuously, despite new money. Profits must go to pay off interest. Profit from growth has to be diverted to meet debt commitments.

For some time now financiers have realised that there are no good business deals to be struck with these countries any more, countries whose raw materials reserves were once so fascinating.

Dishonoured credits have been written off, where possible, new loans in cases of doubt were denied.

More and more frequently governments, in the role of "eleventh hour rescuers," had to step in. In the last two years alone they have had to make available two-thirds of all new loans.

According to the rules of the game which still apply, fresh loans were only officially secured if economic redevelopment programmes following classic lines, called for by the IMF and World Bank, were agreed to.

This meant that misery was increased in the countries most in need.

Public economy measures, which should basically have done good, usually affected the wrong people. There is plenty of evidence to show that the poor became poorer, and anyone who had property put it straight away in a safe place, if he had not already done so.

The flight of capital from the chronically indebted countries continues still.

For internal and social reasons Brazil has not been able to carry out radically the vital economy measures, involving price and wage freezes, which would be essential in purely theoretical terms.

At present a third plan to throttle back cruel inflation, which in February, extrapoloted on an annual basis, had incredibly reached 1,200 per cent, is threatening to go on the rocks. That must be prevented at all costs.

Price stability is a vital requirement for regaining confidence. That must be built up step by step, if urgently needed private money is again to find its way to the debtor countries again.

Both debtor countries and the Americans hope urgently for this. It has now been realised in Washington that the crisis is politically explosive.

The question is now, rather than one of the fate of the debts, one of how a political collapse in Latin American can be prevented?

It is quite impossible to comprehend why those responsible have irresponsibly delayed doing anything for so long.

Only today, after years of human misery, or as the Americans see it, "after a lost decade," only today may one without restraint talk among people responsible for political and economic affairs about debt remission.

Looked at closely that is also only a small plaster over an open wound. Effective solutions are still a long way off. What must be done until then?

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 2 April 1989)

A vicious circle which can have violent consequences

It is six months since the annual conference of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank in Berlin — and no discernible step has been taken to deal with the Third World's debt of $1,300m.

There are plenty of suggestions, but these do not alter in any way the misery of those countries which are deeply in debt.

They live from one date for payment to the next. The creditor banks show themselves to be constantly conciliatory. They extend the dates when interest payments are due and prevent countries going bankrupt by short-term debt rescheduling.

But still the economic decline of the Third World continues inexorably. Even in countries with relative political stability such as Venezuela there are outbreaks of violence.

People are driven to the streets by price increases and the trimming of social welfare benefits, modest enough anyway.

To ensure they retain the goodwill of Western creditor banks the debtor countries have to accept drastic economic conditions.

They have to cut imports and social benefits and their meagre export earnings have to be used almost in total to service debts.

There is not even money for essential investments because the banks are unwilling to throw good money after bad.

The economy of these debtor countries goes down and down and down, and indebtedness almbst inevitably increases.

Nicholas Brady, America's Treasury Secretary, wants to break this vicious circle. Brady not only calls for interest relief he is also recommending that the commercial banks should write off a certain proportion of debts.

In doing this he has brought about a change of direction in American Third World debt policy. The term debt remission was almost taboo in the world of international finance until now.

At the IMF conference in Berlin Alfred Herrhausen, the powerful boss of the Deutsche Bank, called down upon himself almost the total wrath of banking world when he presented his proposals.

Herrhausen was not alone in maintaining that the hope that the debts would be repaid in full was an illusion.

The Americans' change of heart is overdue. According to the Brady plan the World Bank and the IMF should make cash available to the debtor countries so that they could purchase from the creditor banks the instruments of their indebtedness at the lowest possible or they could be converted into new loan.

The two Washington-based organisations, the IMF and the World Bank, would stand guarantors for the interest payments these loans.

If this new strategy were successful the debts of 40 countries in the Third World could be reduced by 20 per cent on average, according to the American Treasury Department.

It is anyone's guess how the commercial banks will look upon this. The American banks have already begun to write off the dud credits in their books. Contrary to their German competitors doing this is very tough for them because the American tax authorities allow no tax relief for debt write-offs.

Despite that a lively trade in Third World loan has developed and at discount prices.

The countries involved gain nothing from this. They get new credit but their indebtedness is diminished in no





way. If the Brady Plan were successful that would change.

The annual general meeting of the Inter-American Development Bank last month showed that the Americans are serious with their initiative.

The USA gave up its tough resistance to increasing the bank's capital. This means new money for Latin America where a third of the Third World's mountain has been run up.

This is no occasion for euphoria however. Countries such as Brazil, Argentina or Mexico would still be sitting on enormous debts, which would quickly begin to mount up again, should new credits be invested bringing in as little profit as in the 1970s.

World trade, which is in full swing at present, is also a factor for uncertainty. A downswing would hit the deeply indebted countries worst of all. They are already complaining about stagnating export profits.

Furthermore Brady's initiative leaves open a lot of questions: not least, doubt about the preparedness of American banks to follow his course.

Another difficult hurdle will be providing the IMF and the World Bank with the necessary funds for the Brady Plan.

In view of these realities the debtor countries must not evade putting their national economies in order economically.

The Brady Plan gives them hope that the debt crisis is still a long way from being solved.

Ralf Neubauer

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 23 March 1989)

Continued from page 7

as one of the Five Wise Men (economic panel which advises the Bonn government on economic issues) that enabled him to etch new benchmarks for the intellectual calibre pertaining to advising on economics in this country.

He has been widely honoured. He has been awarded many honorary professorships. He is Honorary Fellow of the London School of Economics and of the American Economic Association; the universities of Nuremberg-Erlangen and Basel have awarded him honorary doctorates. For his work in the field of providing advice on economic matters, he was in 1983 awarded the Ludwig Erhard Prize for Economics Publicity.

There is one particular feature than does make him proud, and that it the recognition that has emanated from academe in the English-language world for both him personally and for the Kiel Institute. In the strongholds of the discipline in America, Kiel is regarded as the seal of quality in economic research in Germany.

Like many of his contemporaries, Giersch was influenced by his experiences on his first trip to America in the early years after the war. It was there that he discovered some things that under Hitler were not allowed but which he saw as essential for the overcoming of deprivation in the world: the vitality of a society inhabited by denizens whose fortunes were delineated by the encompassing freedoms to determine mode of existence and, to a great extent with the consequent and congruent effect of being invested with the right to do much as they wanted with themselves and their possessions.

This journey back into the incipience of a career as an economic adviser is proof enough for some political critics to, without understanding the case fully, accuse him of a conservatism or a partisanship in favour of capital.

Giersch, who in the academic arena is fearsomely eloquent, sometimes hesitates to confront politically motivated reproaches with decisiveness. Sometimes, the sheer force of the criticism, enshrined as it is in an ideologically-embellished ignorance, makes him shrink back. There is still the spectre of his experience during the days of the Nazis at the back of his mind.

Herbert Giersch now goes on to a well-earned easy chair, but that in no way means that he is stepping into any ivory tower.

Hans D. Barbier

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 30 March, 1989)

■ AVIATION

Lufthansa gets company — and competition with it

Lufthansa is facing a challenge to its dominance of the domestic flight routes over Germany. Chief executive Heinz Ruhnau is not pleased about Bonn Tranport Minister Jürgen Warnke open-skies policy.

After the Frankfurt-based charter company Aero Lloyd began regular low-price flights (15 per cent below Lufthansa rates) between Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, Hamburg and Munich in October last year, Ruhnau is reputed to have considered exerting his influence on the regional airline DLT to make life difficult for the newcomer.

The idea was that DLT should plan flights in such a way that its own aircraft would always take off just before Aero Lloyd's. The idea was dismissed after Ruhnau ran up against strong opposition in his own managing board.

Ruhnau brought up bigger guns against the second newcomer, the Munich-based airline, German Wings.

He took Christian and Peter Kimmel to court because the company offers its passengers "a bit more luxury" for the same price as Lufthansa and wanted to draw up an agreement with Lufthansa on the mutual acceptance of flight tickets.

It is an internationally accepted practice that tickets issued by companies which fly at the same prices can be swapped without any problems. Passengers can then alter their bookings accordingly if their appointments are changed.

But Ruhnau thought this was too much.

Lufthansa's legal advisers even went so far as to maintain that Lufthansa was unable to draw up an "Interline Agreement" with German Wings because the newcomer offers a better service.

The judges at the Düsseldorf district court were not amused. They obliged Lufthansa to accept the German Wings tickets until a final decision has been taken on the matter.

The court justified its decision by pointing out that, according to established law, a market leader is not allowed to "inequitably restrain" a new competitor.

The two managers of German Wings promise a "new era in air traffic" when the four brand new Germans Wings MD 83 jets take off from Munich and head for Hamburg, Frankfurt, Cologne and Paris on 10 April.

At Lufthansa prices they will be offering their passengers more roominess and serving cold or warm meals on porcelain plates on every flight.

The stewardesses learnt their trade from their colleagues at Swissair.

It looks as if the days when Lufthansa could dictate flight times and prices in Germany and when European airlines would share out the routes between Gibraltar and Helsinki between themselves are gone.

Bonn Transport Minister Warnke has given his official seal of approval to both Aero Lloyd's cheap rates as well as to the flight schedules of the two newcomers.

Lufthansa has been forced to accept that the prices and the product will count in future.

Nevertheless, it still feels that it stands an extremely good chance in competition with other airlines.

"We have an extensive network of air routes — and that's what businessmen want, not meals on porcelain plates," *said a Lufthansa spokesman.*

As regards the flight schedule the two newcomers will indeed find it difficult to match the Lufthansa service.

German Wings offers 27 flights a day, Aero Lloyd flies twice daily on four German routes.

Whether business travellers, which account for 87 per cent of all flight passengers, will switch over from Lufthansa's plastic meal packaging to the porcelain plates of German Wings remains to be seen.

Aero Lloyd's lower prices will undoubtedly play a greater role in some travelling expenses calculations.

With its special "Fly & Save" and "Super Fly & Save" cheap-rate offers, however, Lufthansa still has means of launching a counterattack.

At the moment it is adopting a wait-and-see approach. "We don't have to respond yet," said the Lufthansa spokesman.

Lufthansa intends taking the offensive if passengers start turning away from their airline.

This is unlikely to be in the near future. Both newcomers have had plenty of initial difficulties.

The "take-off" of the German Wings venture was postponed several times because McDonnell Douglas was unable to supply the aircraft on time.

Then the planned inclusion of Düsseldorf in the flight network had to be dropped.

"The sky above North Rhine-Westphalia capital is too overcrowded," said Christian Kimmel.

Because Düsseldorf was dropped the flights to Istanbul and Copenhagen also had to be shelved.

By the end of the year, however, German Wings is hoping to obtain between five and eight per cent of the market.

This would mean that 350,000 passengers will opt for flights with German Wings, enough to cover costs.

"On inner-German routes we only need a capacity of 55 per cent, within Europe of 50 per cent," Kimmel claimed.

The publishers Franz and Frieder Burda, who have a 40 per cent stake in German Wings, would also be willing to wait longer for the enterprise to pay its way.

Bogomir Gradisnik, the main shareholder of Aero Lloyd, would even be willing to accept a period of ten years without profits if need be.

After all, his charter flight business brings in so much money that a profit is not absolutely essential in the short run in the field of scheduled service flights.

With about 900,000 passengers, mostly holidaymakers, a year Aero Lloyd is the fourth biggest West German charter airline.

The British Air Europe airline, which was content up to now to fly passengers from Munich or Düsseldorf to London, has set its sights on inner-German flights between Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Cologne, Dortmund and Stuttgart.

So as to facilitate this move, Air Europe has already acquired 49 per cent of the Nürnberger Flugdienst NFD, one of the most successful regional German services.

Air Europe belongs to the International Leisure Group, the third biggest European "holiday factory", which cannot complain about a lack of capital.

Head of Air Europe, Larry Gorton, feels that the officially approved prices for flights between the Federal Republic of Germany and Britain are still too high, even though Lufthansa is already having problems with its special "Super Fly & Save" price of DM394.

Gorton claims that Air Europe could fly at an even lower price and still make a profit.

All newcomers explain their optimism by pointing out that they are not as bureaucratically "top-heavy" as Lufthansa.

Lufthansa, however, is convinced that the newcomers will soon realise that costs increase with size.

Newcomers will also be confronted by other problems facing Lufthansa. Last year, for example, Lufthansa's aircraft alone spent over 10,000 hours in holding pattern waiting to land because of congestion at airports.

Klaus Dieter Oehler

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 1 April 1989)



Today's test for tomorrow's technology. Flight controller in simulator. (Photo: BFS)

Bid to update air-traffic control methods

The prototype of an air-traffic controller's workplace for the 1990s has been unveiled in Frankfurt.

The 4 million mark prototype is part of an effort to fight the chaos in the skies over Europe.

The "Experimental Work Position Simulator" — EWS — is one of the main components of an operational concept for German air traffic control.

In a field in which detailed and efficient flight scheduling can save substantial costs and maximum safety has top priority outdated methods are still being used for manual operations which are predestined to be carried out by computers.

The strict regulations of public budget law, however, only permit a renewal of the obsolete data technology at a snail's pace.

EWS is a ray of hope which could bring about a development from stone-age technology to the era of high-tech.

At present, a narrow control tape has to be filled in for each individual aircraft.

Updatings of the flight situation and details of relief routes and rerouting are added by the air traffic controllers by pen or pencil.

Alterations of air space staggering are made by regrouping the control tapes in plastic holders.

The simulator test in Frankfurt primarily set out to see whether these control tapes could be replaced by presenting the flight path data on electronic data display screens.

The EWS has an electronic superlative: for the first time in Europe a square colour monitor with a screen size of 50 x 50cm was used for the radar presentations of flight movements.

The device was especially constructed for flight control operations by a Japanese group.

The prototype monitor, which costs DM300,000, has a resolution which is three-and-a-half times as great as a normal TV. Its 2,048 times 2,048 image dots provide a needle-sharp and absolutely flicker-free picture.

In order to improve the system's operability the flight path data on the monitor are directionally encoded to make it easier to distinguish the various categories.

Eastward and westward movements as well as crossing air traffic are contrasted in ochre, green and white colours.

Urgent control operations light up in purple.

As the head of the test centre, Otto Ernst Breidenbach, explained purple is not only a colour which draws the attention of the controllers faster than other colours. It also stimulates unpleasant feelings.

"What is more, the signals should appear at such an early stage that there is no need for alarm."

The first test runs of the system showed that is is popular with all those involved, even among those who will be operating the system later on: the air traffic controllers.

However, it will take years before this system can prove its practical worth, say the BFS experts.

Because of the extremely complex operating system an installation of the first fully electronic workplaces will not be possible before the mid-1990s at the earliest.

Up until then the good old "card index" system will remain a part of the everyday work routine of the air traffic controllers.

Dieter Thierbach

(Die Welt, Bonn, 31 March 1989)

■ THE ARTS

Esoteric circles surround the retreat of hubris

Oedipus killed his father and married Jocasta, his own mother. Medea killed her two children to revenge herself on her unfaithful husband, Jason.

Agamemnon, commander of the Greeks in the Trojan War, offered his daughter Iphigeneia in sacrifice to appease the wrath of the gods and give the Greek fleet a favourable wind.

Ten years later, when he returned home victorious, he was murdered by his wife Clytaemnestra at the instigation of her lover, Aegisthus.

What do all these old stories about gods, heroes and homicides from Greek mythology mean to us? Isn't is all something from the past, gone with the wind, outdated by hundreds of social changes, downgraded by progress to the rank of gruesome memories?

Orestes avenged the murder of his father Agamemnon by drawing his knife against Clytaemnestra. Isn't he rather risible the way he then roamed about with pangs of conscience instead of letting himself be rehabilitated?

If that were the case then one would have to accuse our theatres of obsessions with the past, an irresponsible preference for out-moded material and extravagance.

The theatres are granted millions in subsidies to perform for present-day audiences and not to poke around in their stock of dramas created by Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripidies 2,500 years ago.

Nevertheless in the past few months there have been more performances of classical Greek tragedy than there has ever been.

In Cologne the *Trojan Women* have bewailed their fate, carried off by the Greeks from Troy.

In Essen, Hansgünther Heyme — who put on Greek plays when he was in Cologne — has put on the stage the story of Agamemnon and Orestes with the gaudy means of political theatre.

Roberto Ciulli's Mülheimer Theater an der Ruhr has put on in fantastic scenes Euripides *The Bacchae* dealing with Dionysos, the god of wine.

In Frankfurt Oedipus made enquiries until he revealed himself to be the criminal and in despair he put out his own eyes.

Modern treatments of the ancient Greek themes have also been put on: in Bielefeld Gerhart Hauptmann's four plays about Agamemnon and the Trojan War; in Wuppertal a complete re-working of the same material by dramatist Jochen Berg, who lives in East Germany; and Hans Henny Jahnn's *Medea* has been put on in Düsseldorf, having previously been staged in Cologne.

All these are productions put on with considerable seriousness and energy, although naturally with varying degrees of success.

Why do theatre managers, directors and actors venture into the past in this way? Why do these adventures, acts of violence and problems of misunderstanding from the ancient myths appeal to audiences today? What is there in them that is still applicable to our lives.

In his recently published book *Die politische Kunst der griechischen Tragödie*, historian Christian Meier wrote: "Everything is two-sided. Everything is uncertain."

His diagnosis is that the characters in the dramas were filled with anxiety, as were the citizens of the city-state of Athens for whom these dramas were put on in the fifth century Before Christ.

This is one of the main reasons why these dramas always seem to be up-to-date. They were written by and for people for whom the world was inscrutable and hopeless.

Their gods, from Father Zeus to the powerful huntress Artmis, were unpredictable. They knew no mercy and created disaster for humans. Nothing seemed constant.

The stories of Medea, Agamemnon and Oedipus have at least one thing in common: they describe the fall from good fortune, humiliation, annihilation and always guilt, into which humans fall against their will.

For this reason the Greek tragedians constantly warned against hubris, the wanton arrogance of the successful.

This reflects an experience of life which is not so far from our own. The confidence, nourished for centuries for a wide stratum of society by Christian belief and later by middle-class security and self-confidence, has disappeared.

The future seems walled in, no longer despite, but because of, technical possibilities, which endanger nature and as a consequence the very bases of our existence. The progress-hubris, which our century inherited from past centuries and which has dominated it for a long time, is in retreat.



Riding on a wave of Greek tragedy in *Trojan Women*. (Photo: Paul Leck)

According to many people good sense has proven itself to be useless and they have fled into esoteric circles, into sectarian pseudo-religions and bustling irrationality. There is no certainty in our world, no hope in the life hereafter.

The theatre, then, has considerable opportunities, if it realises and can investigate collective opinion through the individual.

Despite the paradox of the distance in time, we encounter Greek tragedy at this point. Greek tragedy which presented primeval political and private problems ranging from the relationships between parents and children to triumph and defeat in war.

Greek tragedy deals with the crux of existence, of the madness into which the great can fall, and of the dependence and fickleness of the little man. The drama shows also how people are able to endure.

Greek drama cannot be regarded as a cure in a muddled world. But it demonstrate what art in society is able of, namely to investigate knowledge and give an insight into examples to be looked up to and how to overcome situations.

The reflection that Agamemnon could have taken off his armour and returned home instead of sacrificing Iphigenia at the altar and assaulting the Trojans, fits very well with the political situation of our times.

Rainer Hartmann
(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 25 March 1989)

The great theatrical divide — pfui to science!

Lots of people want to become actors and actresses. Many of them go to schools to learn about the theatre. But there is a chasm between the worlds of the academic theatre and the theatre on the main street. A deep-rooted mistrust exists between the two. Werner Schulze-Reimpell raises the curtain for *Saarbrücker Zeitung*.

Theatre study is understood to mean the science of the theatre. The theatres as, however, what use it is to them. But the academic world is not bothered by this.

Recently, institutes for the study of the theatre have been founded, in Hamburg, Frankfurt and Bochum, and shortly one is to be established in Mainz.

They all regard themselves as committed to research and teaching; they do not regard themselves as institutions for training for a profession.

Naturally the students see things differently. They energetically call for practical work, for a connection between the academic approach and the realities of the theatre.

With more good intentions than real effect the academics try to meet these demands. But do these students really have much chance of ever finding a job in the theatre?

There are more than 9,000 students doing theatre studies in Germany and Austria. More than half have their eyes on television or films. That leaves the remainder, still too many, even if some drop out. At the most, five per cent will get work in the theatre.

The theatre does not have a very high opinion of academics from the discipline of theatre studies.

The discipline itself, despite the newly established institutions, does not seem to need them.

Not all the directors of the institutes for theatre studies have themselves taken this course of study. The grotesque situation has come about in which the demands of the discipline are high but the discipline itself is not able to meet them.

The German Theatres Association, the theatre employers organisation, has for the first time brought both sides together in Cologne, sides which hardly knew each other until now.

For two days they discussed "The value of theatre studies for practical work in the theatre."

They found no answers. From the very outset the way the discipline sees itself was controversial.

The participants included the heads of the institutions in Hamburg, Frankfurt and Bochum, and a few lecturers from the Federal Republic, East Germany and Vienna as well as theatre managers, literary managers and students.

There was a sharp clash of opinion among the participants. The Berlin theatre academic Henning Rischbieter regards his discipline as "the historic collection of theatre production," and maintains that in a scientific age a theatre without theory would be blind and unthinkable.

The theatre managers attacked the students' practical work as imparting pseudo-experience. They did not see any useful interaction between the theatre and the science of the theatre.

Once more the bon mot appeared: The science of the theatre has two dangerous opponents, the theatre and science.

Theatre science is not recognised either in practice or in its adjacent sciences and is in dispute even with itself.

The dispute quickly shifted to critical and apologetic self-questioning of the academics. This displayed how little the discipline is consolidated within and how vaguely targets are defined.

Arno Paul, professor of theatre in Berlin, maintained that the pa… of theatre historiography within the context of "historic recollection" was not once fulfilled and even spoke of a pseudo-science — in method blurred, undisciplined, and dependent on the greater performance of other disciplines.

The reports of academics of the theatre who had gone into the practical theatre world were particularly interesting.

As directors they were suspected of being obstinately theoretical; but … came in useful as literary managers … they had learned how to analyse … painstakingly.

But the science of the theatre …

Continued on page 14

■ THE GOETHE INSTITUTE

Changeover at the top as big decisions over financing need to be made

The task of the Goethe Institute is to spread the use of the German language and to promote international cooperation in the arts. The Institute, which is answerable to the Foreign Ministry, has a new president. Klaus von Bismarck has retired after 12 years and is succeeded by Hans Heigert, a journalist. The change comes at a time when there are problems with bankrolling the organisation. In this article for *Mannheimer Morgen*, Karl Stanklewitz looks at the state of play.

Horst Harnischfeger, general secretary of the Goethe Institute, recently said in Munich that the knowledge of the German language and the presence of the Federal Republic in the world in a cultural context should be assured and extended through "a great leap forward."

He said that the financial situation now was more dramatic than in the usual annual haggle about money.

Since 1982, when ten new institutes were founded, but 21 posts were cut, the institute has been living off its assets.

Harnischfeger said that now there is on the agenda the establishment of a further ten institutes, not least as a consequence of state agreements or promises.

Taking into consideration the catching up to be done this would require up to 1993 a annual budget increase from the present DM250m to DM300m.

According to a statement of principle from the Foreign Affairs Ministry, under whose wing the Goethe Institutes look after arts policies in 68 countries, there is no question of the closure of any of the existing 140 institutes abroad, because that could be interpreted as an unfriendly act by the host country.

Furthermore there is no way to make economies in programmes and projects which cost only DM40m annually anyway.

If there is no chance of the making savings requested then there is nothing to be done but to cancel plans for the new institutes.

The Goethe Institutes in the East Bloc countries expect to make "a breakthrough" this year, a break-through which could be "extremely enriching" for the cultural relations between the peoples of Europe.

In 1979 a Goethe Institute was opened in Bucharest, despite difficulties put in the way by government. It has been very successful.

A little while ago an institute opened its doors in Budapest — and already 200 applications have been made for language courses although no courses have yet been announced.

Negotiations for an institute in Sofia have now been concluded.

Harnischfeger expects that agreements for Goethe Institutes in Warsaw and Prague will be signed this year, and "there is basic agreement" for an institute for Moscow.

In the Soviet Union alone there are nine million learning German. The interest in German as a foreign language is nowhere else in the world so keen as it is in the East Bloc. The willingness to take up arts programmes of every kind is almost limitless.

The current opening towards the East will bring with it a correspondingly enormous backlog of demand for information, meetings and cultural events.

At Goethe Institute headquarters the spread of the institute's work in North America is regarded as being just as important. Institutes are planned for Washington, Seattle, Vancouver.

The Federal Repuublic's image in the USA continues to be dominated by Nazi clichés. Despite the fact that a large proportion of the population is of German origin, German as a mother tongue has practically died out and few learn it.

For this reason efforts must be intensified to provide further education for German-language teachers.

It is planned to open institutes in Seville (the Spanish interest in a cultural dialogue has increased at an explosive rate), and in Harare, Zimbabwe.

An institute in South Africa does not seem opportune at the moment from the foreign policy point of view, and for the time being the institute in Teheran, closed in 1987, will not be re-opened, despite a considerable demand for learning German.

The institute in Baghdad was closed by the Iraqi government in 1966. It is possible that a representative will be established there in 1992 and later a fully-fledged institute.

The new openness, manifest by East Germany, has had a side-effect which has surprised Goethe Institute staff considerably. Tense relations with the East German Herder Institute in the past have changed to a "relaxed existence side by side," in which people meet each other and chat, according to Harnischfeger.

There is no trace any more of the attitude of rejection, adopted towards the "West German competition." Obviously instructions previously laid down that this was the attitude to be taken. Recently an East German Herder Institute in Budapest specifically thanked its German "brother institute" in a list of sources.

East German poet Stefan Hermlin has been able make an appearance with West Germans in Rome; in Washington three professors from East Berlin took part in a discussion on the reception of East German literature in the West.

Jochen Bloss, head of the science and literature department said: "All of this would have been quite unthinkable a year ago."

The 55-member Goethe Institute assembly met behind closed doors to select six candidates active in public life for the Goethe Institute presidium. This presidium also includes three representatives from the 3,400 employees in Goethe Institutes worldwide and two nominees from the government.

The 11-man presidium had to elect a new president on 4 April, as Klaus von Bismarck retired at the end of March after 12 years in the job.

It was said that there were 26 applicants for the appointment as president. The short-list included the former Bavarian Minister for the Arts, Hans Maier, former editor-in-chief Hans Heigert, the writer Walter Jens and, because of political party neutrality, a number of people from industry.

One of Klaus von Bismarck's last official functions was to award the Goethe Prize to art historian Sir Ernst Gombrich, born in Austria but who emigrated to Britain during the Nazi regime. Herr von Bismarck also handed the award to the French Germanist Jacques Grandjonc, the Columbian philosopher Carlos Bernardo Gutierrez, the British philologist Nigel B. R. Reeves and Germanist Guy Stern, who was born in Hildesheim and emigrated to the United States in 1937.



Warned about right extremism . . Klaus von Bismarck. (Photo: dpa)

On this occasion Klaus von Bismarck warned about an increase of right-wing extremism in the Federal Republic.

Certainly, exaggerated, apocalyptic anxieties about such right-wing and left-wing extremism in a democracy sure of itself are groundless.

But the fuss about the slogans of these minorities, and that fact that there are political groups, tempted to accommodate themselves to such radical elements for tactical purposes in elections, are reason enough for the Goethe Institute to reconsider what its cultural tasks are and how best they can do justice to them.

Karl Stankiewitz
(Mannheimer Morgen, 1 April 1989)

A newspaper editorial writer steps into the breech

Hans Heigert, the new president of the Goethe Institute, is a senior journalist with the Munich daily, *Süddeutsche Zeitung*. He has been a member of the newspaper's editorial board for 15 years. For 20 years he wrote editorials. He has been on the board of the Goethe Institute for many years. This pen portrait of Heigert was written by Gernot Sittner. It appeared in (where else?) the columns of the self-same *Süddeutsche Zeitung*.

A journalist does not become a president every day of the week but Hans Heigert of this paper has done that.

Heigert, 64, has been elected president of the Goethe Institute.

For 15 years, until 1984, he was named as chairman of the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* editorial board and in this function he showed his talent for giving leadership to a group of individualists, without limiting their freedom in any way. He did the same thing in his job with Bavarian Television.

He was a liberal moderator whose authority was based on being well-informed, so there were few opportunities of putting one over on the boss.

Klaus von Bismarck, who has headed the Goethe Institute for the past 12 years, mentioned on 1 April, after the election for the presidency, a few of the qualifications he expected from his successor.

He should be politically independent and a loyal supporter of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, but not an extended arm of the Bonn bureaucracy.

He should present himself as a person respected in arts circles, but not use his office to enhance his own image.



An independent line . . Hans Heigert. (Photo: dpa)

He should be interested in foreign cultures and not run his foreign cultural policies at a purely diplomatic level.

If the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* said Heigert would do justice to these demands it could be assumed that the paper was prejudiced.

We can then leave this verdict to the newspaper's readers who knew him as an editorial writer for 20 years. It should also be mentioned, perhaps, that Heigert was one of the few candidates favoured by the institute's personnel.

The involvement of his predecessor, the public discussion on the course of foreign cultural policy, and the increase in tasks the institute has to undertake and its reputation make it necessary that Heigert should be in his new office not just a representative but be much more involved in political matters than previous presidents of the Goethe Institute.

Two years ago Heigert wrote: "What happens in West Germany culturally, from architecture to changes in the landscape, from film experiments to new music, from writer Günter Grass's public appearances to the activities of the peace movement, have contributed to a varying picture of the Federal Republic outside its frontiers."

Heigert has an intimate knowledge of the Goethe Institute's activities since he has for many years been on its board.

As president he must be able to defend the institute's independence, and at the same time make sure that the finance is available for the institute to fulfill new tasks — extension of cultural relations with the East Bloc — without neglecting the links which have been forged so far.

Gernot Sittner
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 5 April 1989)

When the tanker *Exxon Valdez* left the oil-loading jetty of Valdez, a small town with a population of 3,500 on the coast of the Prince William Sound, on Good Friday it was fully loaded with 206,000 tons of crude oil.

The ship's captain Joseph Hazelwood was not apparently in a fit state to do duty on the bridge.

He thus violated one of the basic rules of navigation, according to which the captain should stay on the bridge during all docking and casting off manoeuvres as well when the ship is passing through critical waters.

This applies even if a pilot happens to be on board. The astonishing fact is that this is not compulsory in Alaska.

Investigations revealed that alcohol was involved. Furthermore, the third officer who stood in for the captain had neither training nor a licence to steer a ship in coastal waters.

What then happened was the result of his inexperience.

The 335-metre-long tanker rammed a rock; according to the divers this ripped open "holes as big as barn doors" in the ship's outer wall and in the first of the total of 12 tanks.

Because the officer misjudged the sluggish response of the big ship to braking procedures, there was a second collision about four kilometres further along.

It was here that the tanker ran aground on a rocky reef. Thousands of tons of oil immediately spilled out of the eight damaged tanks.

Up to now (31 March) roughly 42,000 tons of crude oil cover a water surface of 260,000 square metres.

The rescue operations are taking place exactly along the lines predicted by environmentalists in the blackest of colours ever since the pipeline was built.

■ THE ENVIRONMENT

Oil: big business, big ship and a whopping spillage

The helplessness of the authorities and of the Exxon oil company can hardly be surpassed.

There are neither enough barriers to cordon off the oil nor any special ships to siphon off or collect the oil.

The use of chemicals to bind the oil and then sink it to the seabed already proved highly ineffective, indeed extremely damaging to nature, many years ago in Europe.

It took five days of helpless gestures before the US oil group called in a Dutch salvaging team.

This team is also unlikely to have much success, since the oil has already reached the islands on which salmon spawning is just starting.

Since the *Amoco Cadiz* tanker tragedy off the French coast at the latest every layman knows that the detrimental effects of such oil pollution are still felt years after the accident.

French fishermen still catch fish which are seriously deformed and have genetic defects.

This explains the shock which reverberated around the world following the news of the disaster off the southern coast of Alaska.

The Alaska oilspill has made one thing clear: human error is producing increasingly serious transport accidents at increasingly short intervals, accidents whose long-term effects are difficult to predict.

The accident has again drawn the attention of the American public to a region experiencing a bitter struggle between environmental and economic interests.

The first oil drillings, and even more so the construction of the Trans-Alaska pipeline, already stirred public emotions.

In the opinion of environmentalists, the building of the pipeline from right through Alaska from the Prudhoe Bay, almost parallel to the US-Canadian border, has created a thermal barrier.

During the months when Alaska's soil is frozen solid a broad strip of land along the pipeline is artificially heated so as to maintain the velocity of oil flow.

The environmentalists claim that this corridor has become a barrier to the movements of many animals.

These fears only proved partly justified, since technical means were found to "defuse" the problem of disturbed herd movements.

The greater the quantities of oil discovered in Alaska, however, the greater the efforts by the oil companies to open up this region.

Backed by a powerful lobby in Washington they now demand that a strip of coastal land (roughly 600,000 hectares) on the edge of the Arctic Ocean should be opened up for oil drillings.

This area, however, is part of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, a nature reserve extending across an area of 7.5 million hectares.

Furthermore, the oil companies would like to lay a second pipeline through the tundra to Valdez.

The Senate Energy Committee only recently gave its approval for these plans.

Following the tanker oilspill, however, President Bush is unlikely to grant his permission straight away — even though the oil drillings in Alaska are of paramount economic importance to the USA.

The reaction at international oil exchanges showed just how important Alaska oil is.

The price of a barrel (159 litres) of crude oil soared above the $18 mark immediately after the accident and even reached a level of $20.5 for a while.

This price level had not been reached at any time during the past one-and-a-half years.

Admittedly, the reason for this price increase, which had a stimulating effect on the exchange rate of the US currency, is not only rooted in the disrputed oil supply situation in Alaska.

Thanks to pretty disciplined oil production by the Opec states and the curbed British production, which has still not recovered from the accident on the *Piper Alpha* oil-rig, the oil price has tended to be steady during the past few months.

In fact, during the past two months the worldwide demand of just under 20 million barrels a day even exceeded the output figure of roughly 19 million barrels.

There are already signs, however, that some Opec members will advocate stepping up the daily output figure to 20 million barrels during the next Opec meeting in Vienna this month.

This is unlikely to be accepted, but the tolerance of the major oil-producing countries towards the smaller "renegades" which clearly exceed their output quota has become greater. After all, noone wants to jeopardise Opec solidarity.

If British production starts moving into full swing in such a situation this will automatically lead to a renewed weakening of the market. Experts expect this to happen in the late summer.

Alaska's oil fields supply about two million barrels of crude oil a day, roughly 25 per cent of America's own oil production.

These supplies not only make the Americans less dependent on oil imports (which still account for 40 per cent of total demand) they also have a regulatory effect on prices.

It is understandable that the energy strategists demand access to further oil deposits.

The governor of Alaska, Steve Cowper, was correspondingly prompt to allow the oil firms to resume shipments in Valdez following the tanker incident.

Not only switching off the pipeline flow would lead to enormous losses every day but also the ten tankers waiting in the port would cost a lot of money if left idle.

After Cowper had officially authorised the resumption of shipments the crude oil markets calmed down.

Anyone who saw the highly emotional reactions of average US citizens to the freeing of three whales from the pack ice a few months ago can imagine the response to the pictures of dead and dying animals in Alaska.

It's almost too late to help the animal world in the Sound.

Yet it may be possible to fulfil a desire expressed by Dennis Kelso from the Alaska Environmental Protection Agency.

Kelso urged industry to try and understand that the description "Last Frontier" for the once unspoiled land in the Arctic region, could also describe the "last frontier" for mankind's disruption of nature.

Gerd Achilles

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, Bonn, 31 March 1989)

One time they can't blame the computer

Many computerised devices exist which enable navigation to be carried out with extreme accuracy. Soon satellites will be enlisted to increase the degree of accuracy.

The *Exxon Valdez* oilspill off the Alaskan coast shows that more computerisation does not automatically mean greater safety.

The accident yet again confirmed the law that, under certain circumstances, everything that can go wrong will go wrong.

In this particular case it looks as if a totally disorientated crew ran a huge tanker aground on a well-marked reef under harmless weather conditions.

Action to contain the catastrophe was inadequate and too late. It soon became clear that preparations in case of an accident on this scale were insufficient — even though everyone expected something like it to happen some day.

The French oceanographer Jacques-Yves Cousteau described the huge tankers as "time bombs."

Indeed, the tankers are little more than gigantic barrels of oil with an engine and a helm.

Of course, they are manoeuvrable only with the help of human beings who often work as machine-like as the machines they operate.

As this runs contrary to human nature the next oilspill is just as certain to come as the next air crash. *Rudolf Grosskopff*

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, Hamburg, 31 March 1989)




■ HEALTH

The physical, mental and financial cost of having accidents

The number of deaths on German roads rose last year from 7,963 to 8,213. The number of people taken to hospital with serious injuries after road accidents rose 6,000 to more than 108,000. A total of 448,233 people were injured on the roads. Accidents in the workplace were up 0.4 per cent to 1.76 million last year. The costs are physical, mental and financial. Jochen Wagner reports for *Saarbrücker Zeitung*.

Despite improved safety precautions the number of West Germans involved in accidents increases every year.

According to statistics issued by the Munich-based motorists' association ADAC, there were 2,022,063 traffic accidents last year.

The Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden estimates the "damage" to the economy at well over DM50bn.

In road accidents alone 448,233 people were injured.

"The resultant loss of income, the medical costs and the the costs of facial operations and limb replacements are estimated at well over DM25bn by the Accident Prevention Report," the expert for accident statistics in Wiesbaden, Dieter Bierau, pointed out.

According to the figures compiled by his ADAC colleague, Hans-Joachim Vorholz, 108,624 people were taken to hospital with serious injuries following road accidents. This figure is 6,000 up on the previous comparable period. The number of deaths also increased from 7,963 to 8,213.

Deputy Bonn Transport Ministry spokesman, Peter Schimikowski, however, does not view the increasing accident figures as a trend reversal. He attributes the new situation to the increased volume of traffic.

Bonn Transport Minister Jürgen Warnke (CSU), on the other hand, would like to see stiffer fines for dangerous drivers and calls for more responsibility on the part of motorists.

Until the situation improves rescue teams do their best to provide on-the-spot help as fast as possible.

Rescue and medical equipment is transported in helicopters or ambulances.

In the ADAC rescue helicopter *Christoph 25* pilot Christian Windisch flies from the town of Siegen to the scenes of accidents three times a day on average.

He's repeatedly amazed at the fact that some of the victims can still be dragged out of the crashed vehicles alive with only cuts, chest injuries and smashed limbs.

First aid and speedy rescue operations have saved the lives of tens of thousands of casualties involved in serious accidents.

Following the immediate lifesaving treatment, however, many people remain disfigured and obliged to seek the help of psychologists.

"We try to settle the damages claims as unbureaucratically as possible," said Alois Schnitzer from the Association of Car Insurers.

In his organisation roughly 100 insurance companies paid out over DM15bn in claims payments last year. Damages for personal injury accounted for about one third of this figure.

Compensation payments for personal suffering exceeded doctors' costs by over DM200m.

In the opinion of psychologist Andreas Soljan many accident victims suffer for many years from the after-effects of these accidents, such as amputations or other disfigurements.

The graduated psychologist admits that roughly 20 per cent of his patients are victims of accidents.

Soljan feels that the operation costs of DM10,000 needed for a cosmetic restoration of the patients would be a better investment than the much greater costs of psychological care for depressive accident victims.

Very often, however, the health insurance companies are not so keen on financing such operations.

Axel Neuroth from the Düsseldorf VIP clinic is one of the total of 108 plastic surgeons in the Federal Republic of Germany.

In his opinion the number of plastic surgery operations will increase even further.

Patients often have to wait a long time before they can be helped.

According to Neuroth women in particular suffer most from the psychological effects of outwardly visible injuries.

"Many people with a disfigured face not only shy away from public places, but also lose their self-esteem," said Neuroth.

"They may already interpret the fact that their partner has a date in the evening as a personal rejection.

"The psychological suffering of a woman automatically leads to crises. This is equally applicable to breast injuries caused by accidents or cancer.

"The immediate treatment given to the patient in the hospitals following the accident is first and foremost designed to save lives.

"In the often overworked accident hospitals there are neither the staff resources nor the time to carry out the plastic surgery operations under aesthetic aspects to the necessary extent."

Ongoing pain. Plastic surgery after traffic accident. (Photo: Sepp Spiegl)

The president of the Surgeons Association in Hamburg, Karl Hempel, complained that there are not enough plastic surgeons.

"We have a great deal of catching up to do in this particular field of surgery," he emphasised.

He stressed that about 1,500 specialist surgeons for accident injuries cannot concentrate on the cosmetic problem of the victims.

According to Hempel there are roughly 7,500 surgeons working in West German clinics.

Despite sophisticated accident prevention and job safety regulations the number of accidents at work increased slightly by 0.4 per cent in 1988 to a figure of 1.76 million.

The number of persons killed as a result of such accidents fell (according to provisional figures from the Bonn Labour Ministry) by approximately three per cent to 2,190.

Last year the statutory health insurance paid out a total of DM13.5bn for the consequences of accidents and rehabilitation.

The number of children and adolescents (up to age of 16) who were injured or killed in accidents fell by just under four per cent to 1.2 million. This included 990,000 accidents involving schoolchildren.

The associated insurance costs amounted to DM366m. This represents an increase of 1.2 per cent in comparison with 1987.

In reply to a written question in the Bundestag the government stated that it regards the declining number of accidents involving schoolchildren as a major success in the struggle for greater safety in everyday situations.

Jochen Wagner

(Saarbrücker Zeitung, 30 March 1989)

Quality of life after operation tops agenda at surgeons' meeting

Surgeons no longer measure success or failure merely in terms of how long the patient lives, if a cure is permanent or the number of post-operative complications.

Post-operation quality of life was on top of the agenda when German surgeons met at their conference in Munich.

This was an effort to reduce the dissatisfaction and mistrust of many people towards medicine despite medical advances and the fact that these advances are part of the reason why life expectancy has doubled since the beginning of the century.

Opening the conference, Professor Horst Hamelmann stressed that greater attention to the patients' needs is more important than ever.

The physician's satisfaction at having repaired or successfully removed an organ and replaced it with a perfect reconstruction is not shared by all patients.

Especially after cancer operations the patient is left in a state of deep despair.

"Patients are often tormented by fears and questions, for example, whether they will live longer or die longer," said Hamelmann.

Furthermore, patients suffer intense-

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■ CURIOSITIES

Swarming tactics win world title for dogged collector

Frankfurter Allgemeine

Manfred Beck, a 47-year-old municipal employee from the Lake Constance town of Friedrichshafen, is a collector. But he is no ordinary collector.

He pursues his hobby with a intensity that becomes a shade aggressive when he fails to get what he wants.

His visiting card says in gold lettering that he has "the biggest autographed coat-of-arms and unicum collection in the world." It has won him an entry in the Guinness Book of Records.

But those who regard him as an autograph seeker insult him. Prominent people who think he will be satisfied with an autographed photograph find the photograph coming back by return mail together with an exasperated explanation that he isn't a schoolboy.

He insists that mayors or senior regional officials autograph their regional coats of arms. Where there is no coat of arms, should send a beer mug or a tin plate or, as in the case of actress Ruth Maria Kubitschek, a self portrait.

Dieter Weirich, who is a CDU authority on the media, sent Beck a beer-mug lid on which a friend had caricatured him.

The chief of Daimler-Benz, Edzard Reuter, sent a metal plate with his name engraved on it; Alfred Dregger, leader of the CDU/CSU faction in the Bonn Bundestag, sent a plate embossed with the German eagle and the inscription "Unity and Justice and Freedom".

The intendant of a Bavarian radio station sent a piece of the last wooden transmitting tower in Europe, in Munich; and the head of a Hesse radio station sent a ceramic wine jug from a well-known restaurant.

Beck insists that there must be symbolism in his items, and that's just what he got from Austria when the Bishop of Innsbruck sent him a rosary.

Christian Schwarz-Schilling, the Bonn Minister for Posts, thought he could keep Beck happy with a few stamps, but was badly mistaken. Rejected by the collect or, he went and bought a metal jug and had his name inscribed on it by a jeweller.

The manager of an Ulm firm called Kässbohrer sent a model of a boat called the *Ulmer Schachtel* in which Swabians from Ulm made their trip along the Danube to their new home in the east in the time of Catherine the Great 200 years ago.

The general director of the Porcelain works in Meissen, in East Germany, sent one of his own personal porcelain plates. That was before he cleared off to West Germany.

The aerospace firm of Dornier, which is also based in Friedrichshafen, sent an autographed model of Rosat, a research satellite which is due to be sent up next February.

There is a story attached to almost every piece in his collection. He knows with absolute certainty where every piece is on the cluttered walls of his small home. He can put his finger straight away on the city coat of arms of Offenbach, Dietzenbach or Rottweil.

The collection long ago grew too big for his home, so some items have to be given homes elsewhere — in his stairwell, other items have been removed to the town hall and still others, the larger items, to the city's *Bauhof*.

Beck says his hobby costs him a fortune in postage — since 1974, he has spent 25,000 marks this way. But he is not tempted to cash in by selling. If someone him a few thousand for a beer mug embossed with a picture of Franz Josef Strauss, he would reject it.

"I don't sell anything. I would die of shame if someone came to visit me and their item was no longer there."

He has about 3,500 autographed coats of arms and thousands more of various other items. It it the sort of collection that can never be complete.

He says that of every 100 people he writes to, 97 send him what he wants. He has had no luck with either the Pope or with Gorbachov. Neither has he with Franz Steinkühler, head of the biggest trade union in Germany, IG Metall.

And when he wrote to the head of the CDU faction in the Baden-Wurttemberg state assembly, Erwin Teufel, in November, he received a one-sentence reply: "Please don't write to me again." Beck hasn't taken offence: "He just doesn't know me."

A much more conciliatory line was taken by the Superior from a convent college at Bad Wurzach who told Beck: "I don't think much of the Guinness Book of Records. There are many more sensible and socially worthwhile diversions. You appear to be a relentless and single-minded person." So in order to head off any further inquiries, he had arranged for one of his superiors to sign a jubilee medal set in wood.

When Beck gives his visitors a beer, it is served in a collector's piece. For example, in a mug made to celebrate the jubilee of the milling business in the administrative district of Erfurt in East Germany. The bottom of the mug is inscribed with the names of the employees of the *Volkseigener Betrieb* (People's Own Business) mill.

Alfred Behr

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 31 March 1989)

Continued from page 10

needed for this — one could do the same thing by training in every other humanities subject.

The contributions from two professors from East Germany were refreshing.

There are only 45 doing theatre studies in East Germany — every two years 15 graduate with the guarantee of getting a job in the profession. Working for one or two years as a trainee is a basic requirement.

Students are given further instruction during their practical training. Instruction is clearly geared to practices in the theatre today, but there is a growth in the theoretical requirements of the theatre.

August Everding, who chaired the conference, made a comparison with theology. He said that like theology the subject was intangible.

Werner Schulze-Reimpell

(Saarbrücker Zeitung, 30 March 1989)



.. A star is born. Sort of.

(Photo: Klaus-Dieter Geka)

A record business: how to be a big star in a small way

Christoph and Marion met in a disco in Gran Canaria. Back in Germany, the 35-year-old haulage agent did not want to have the mere memory of a holiday flirt.

So he went to the studio of Klaus Dieter Gebauer in Eitorf, near Bonn, and ordered "a song full of memories."

Gebauer listened to the holiday story and then composed some music, wrote the text and produced the final result — with Christoph singing on the single record.

So does this just go to show that alternatives are needed to supercede the old ideas of presents, alternatives to books, ties and the self-knitted pullover?

Gebauer, a 39-year-old sound engineer who wears impressive shoulder-length locks, has clearly discovered a hole in the market. He says there are many people who have personal experiences which they would like to pass on to others in musical form.

Gebauer is a specialist in the field, having composed and arranged songs for people like Mireille Mathieu, Peter Cornelius and Bad Boys Blue. He says he can help amateurs to fulfil their dream of having their own record.

The cost depends on how "exclusive" the record should be. This love service in the age of the computer in the form of a single-play record "with a certificate, either in a wooden box or in a velvet-lined wooden box". At a price, naturally. You can't get anything for less than 3,900 marks.

You can choose any type of music, jazz, classical, pop, folk; you can choose do peform a duet with Tina Turner or Engelbert (their voices only, unfortunately). Gebauer is backed up by a team of about 10 composers, musicians and text writers as well as sound imitators. But only the sound, the harmony, of originals is copied, not the melody.

Customers come from all over the country. And they are of all ages. One 40-year-old who "used to be in the student protest movement" (in the late 60s) ordered 2,000 copies of his ballad to be pressed — at a price, of course. They will be given to his friends.

An older man wanted to leave behind a piano sonata which for posterity, above all for his son-in-law. Another was for a song the staff of an office for their boss.

More difficult was the the wish of a man who wanted to congratulate his mother with zither music on her 75th birthday. "Where do I get a zither player from" asked Gebauer shrugging his shoulders.

It takes on average a week before a composition is ready. Gebauer allows a day for the recording. The methods used are kind to the customer so that any defects in the musical arrangement are given a flattering dose of camouflage.

Whoever has trouble mastering a major is assured that this particular product is always "sung in a particularly individual style." Even Bob Dylan would have trouble with this melody.

He manages to get nine out of 10 customers to sing something "halfway good." What about the 10th? Such a

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case was a fireman who wanted to surprise his wife on their wedding anniversary. On the second day of recording Gebauer eventually managed to persuade him that he would do better to make do with talking instead of singing. "That was in his interest. Every extra day costs, after all, another 600 marks."

There are three types of people who come to him, he says: those who want to leave friends and posterity a recording of their power of voice; those who want to make a present of "a nice sound" and those who would like him to help them on their way to a professional career. Many in the last category are naive.

But some do have prospects. Two girls aged 15 and 16 asked him seriously whether their song, called "Song against Hunger," would be used by television. Gebauer says he made them pay only half price "because they have talent and I want to promote them. They could turn out to be something."

It would not be his first success. Haulage agent Christoph might well have made a hit with Marion, although if this can be put down to the single-play record is another question.

Thomas Schuler

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 25 March 1989)

■ HORIZONS

It's just a ball of creativity on dance floor

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

Dancing is becoming more popular again, according to a survey carried out by Professor Horst W. Opaschowski, an authority on leisure activities.

Two thousand Germans above the age of 14 were questioned in the survey, which was for the British-American Tobacco leisure research institute.

Professor Opaschowski issued the results at the international dance-teachers' congress, Intako '89, at Mainz.

"People are demanding more for themselves, but a person's circle of friends and acquaintances is also making more and more demands: anyone who can dance is finding it easier to make friends," it said.

But not everyone who can dance is satisfied with his or her performance. According to Professor Opaschowski this dissatisfaction has increased considerably when compared with attitudes adopted in the 1970s.

He estimates that "more than 11 million people would like to be able to dance better." This dissastisfaction with dancing abilities was shown among 42 per cent of those surveyed, and increasingly among the younger generation:

The results of Professor Opaschowski's researches will give pleasure to the Federal Republic's schools of dancing, continuously subject to changes of fashion.

He claimed that 1.8 million people in this country between the ages of 40 and 49 would like to perfect their dancing abilities, because "anyone who wants to improve his or her career opportunities must be able to dance."

This also holds true for 1.3 million men and women between the ages of 50 and 59 who have recognised that "since their dancing school days they have not learned much."

Opaschowski has not discovered "a marching in step" but rather an "imbalance with a conflict potential."

He explains this by saying that only about a quarter of women are uninterested in dancing, but 35 per cent of the men have no interest at all.

Regardless of that the interest in courses of dancing of all kinds continues. Every other young person between the ages of 16 and 20 has taken part in one or more dancing courses over the past five years, and even in the country young people have discovered dancing courses, stimulated by the spread of discotheques.

According to Helmut Schäfer, press spokesman for the dancing teachers' association, hundreds of thousands pass dancing courses and continue dancing in dance clubs and associations.

Dancing has for a long time not been a matter of social status. He said that dancing classes were no longer conducted with a drum beating out the rhythm of the steps.

Dancing schools have developed new teaching methods and have re-modelled themselves in line with the "swinging world."

Dancing teachers take the view that they are helping to defuse the ticking time-bomb of what to do with leisure.

They have something to offer to this end. They have a new relationship with their "pupils" who are given instruction in a relaxed atmosphere and then "swing as the style in which we are going to dance in the 1990s."

It is true that the swing style of Glen Miller, Bennie Goodman and Count Basie has come back into fashion and has been cultivated as a form of movement as an amplification of dance courses extending from the waltz to the mambo.

Schäfer said: "There has never before been so much improvisation and creativity on the dance floor."

Rudolf Richter, president of the dancing teachers' association, said that surveys had shown that "the desires and aims of people in this country were fitness, a pleasant atmosphere and a good time."

Professor Opaschowski has also looked into the question of social manners and has found something new. He said that every other young person questioned in the survey regarded it as important that "one should learn good manners in dancing lessons as well."

In 1975, the post-1968 student unrest generation, 48 per cent expected "good manners" to be included in dancing courses. Now 57 per cent of young people expect this to be included.

The international dancing conference for 1989 on 4 and 5 November will give the 700 dancing schools in the national association the opportunity to show themselves in a new way and demonstrate what influence the congress in Mainz has had on them.

After comparative brain studies Professor Eduard David of Witten University came to the conclusion that dancing and dance movement "was ideal training *for the right side of the brain and the* brain as a whole."

Dancing reduces stress, calms the nerves and gives a person the opportunity to be creative and express himself or herself individually.

Dieter Zahn

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 23 March 1989)

Continued from page 13

ly from the fear of being alone during this phase of the illness or even dying.

Doctors have a commitment to try and allay these fears by means of empathetic advice.

If their action is rooted in compassion instead of natural sciences or philosophy medicine stands a chance of regaining the trust needed to move out of its crisis.

Medicine does not find it easy to address the question of the quality of life and what this really means.

The concept, which is generally used in the political field and solely relates to philosophical aspects, must be reinterpreted for a more extensive definition.

A person's "condition" following an operation encompasses physical, social and psychological dimensions.

Hamelmann feels that their significance should be assessed in clinical studies so as to enable an incorporation in surgical practice.

He referred to transplantation surgery, accident surgery and plastic surgery as examples of fields in which operations can serve to improve the quality of life.

When a decision is taken on whether and how an operation should be carried out the question of the patient's own attitude should be given priority over other factors.

Hamelmann insisted that this is particularly important in the border areas of what is surgically possible, where the main criteria are otherwise experience and intuition. Medicine should not act on behalf of science, but on behalf of human beings with the help of scientific means.

Greater respect for the quality of life could lead to a change in the professional ethics of physicians.

During a press conference Hamelmann remarked that the question of respect for the quality of life is also a generation problem.

He said that older people have never approved of operating in all cases where this is medically possible. They were more aware of the ups and down of life.

Commenting on the situation in clinics he criticised the still unresolved *problem of the lack of nursing staff and the significance of this factor for more* humanity in hospitals.

He also referred to "exaggerated data protection" which impedes unrestricted research and to narrowly interpreted vivisection laws which make its difficult to keep research up to international standards.

The Surgeons' Congress in Munich, which lasted until 1 April, attracted thousands of doctors from both home and abroad.

Apart from questions relating to progress in this discipline and the quality of life its programme included discussions on techical advancements and a session discussing controversial surgical methods.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 30 March 1989)

Helping parents cope with losing their child

About 17,000 children die every year in Germany through accident, illness, drugs or suicide. Parents must somehow come to terms with the loss.

An organisation designed to help them is Verwaiste Eltern (Orphaned Parents). Eberhard Weidler, a doctor and theologian involved with the organisation says it is not merely a matter of commiseration.

Yet a sense of mourning is the dominant feeling when Weidler holds discussions in his Munich consulting rooms or invites bereaved parents to a seminar at Caritas House at Seeweis on the Starnberg Lake.

In these consultations and at the seminars help is given to overcome a stroke of fate the like of which has hit parents at all times and in all cultures: the death of a child.

Hundreds of parents are hit every day with the news of death.

The aid organisation of this name was established in 1984 in Munich and will now give fresh hope to the bereaved in other cities.

Co-founder of the organisation, Mechtild Voss-Eiser, said: "Here people can give way to their feelings without demure." She was describing the situations which confront the organisation's voluntary helpers, mainly psychologists and pastors.

They are not just concerned in attempting to assuage the pain and suffering of a death; this is done mainly by the friends of those affected.

The organisation, however, is much more concerned with rebuilding a solid, acceptable content to life when it seems as if there is no-one left on whom parents can lavish their love and affection.

Surveys show that in 70 per cent of instances the marriage itself falls apart with the loss of a child.

Saarbrücker Zeitung

Relationships with friends, who in the early days of mourning naturally gave their support, suddenly become brittle.

The parents' "perverse experience" arouses only a sense of helplessness among their circle of friends or clumsy proposals which often end up with comforting phrases along the lines of "it's best to forget."

But forgetting is no way of coping with the experience of the loss of a child.

One of the basic principles of the aid organisation, which helps parents to help themselves, is that at some time "the parents concerned must begin to accept the loss and the sense of mourning in their lives."

The way back to normal life is long. Dealing with mourning is a difficult process, accompanied by many reverses. All too often memories of the child cause once more pain, anger and a sense of guilt.

A Munich woman, Ingrid, who had lost her 16-year-old son in a road accident, said: "I would have pulled out all the flowers and crushed them under foot. It was unbearable when the birds sang."

Helga from Hamburg, who also lost her son, said: "Since then I have tormented myself with what people call life, and I've lived to die, but that hasn't happened."

The self-help organisation has to tackle such deep feelings of the negation of life.

One person involved in Verwaiste Eltern said: "There is a network of relationships and contacts, which prove themselves to be helpful, even life-saving."

The organisation is not a replacement for the help of the psychologist, but is a kind of "anchor in life."

This includes not only the comforting word and the possibility of talking over one's grief, but also dancing therapy, which can bring harmony once more to the body and the mind.

One of the proposals in a 15-point programme is: "Transform mourning into creative energy."

Someone who enjoys writing should confide in a diary. Contacts with old friends should be maintained where possible. Just to give oneself over to the pain can be dangerous. Scientists have discovered that people in mourning are a top risk group.

American psychiatrist Paula Clayton has made a study of fathers. She discovered that in the first year of mourning there was a noticeable increase in the incidence of suicide.

Mourning mothers, on the other hand, showed signs of mental illness, comparable to deep depression.

For this reason the Munich self-help organisation expressly advises parents knowingly to seek to halt the avalanche of feelings between panic and a sense of compulsion. If this means just tears, they help.

An organisation helper said: "Take time to cry. This is true for men as well, for naturally strong men should also know how to weep."

Karl Stankiewitz

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